



Inside

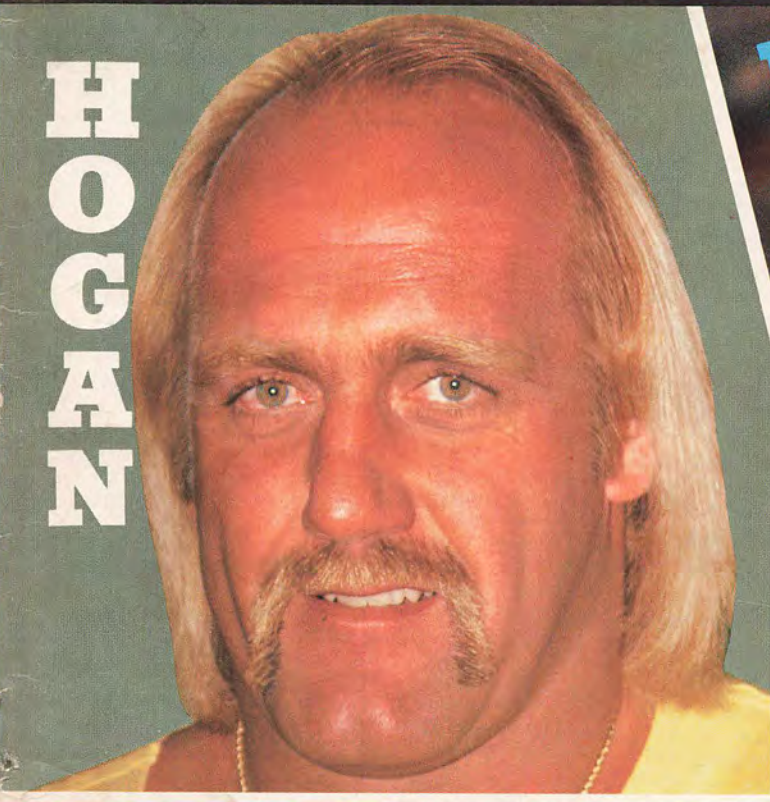
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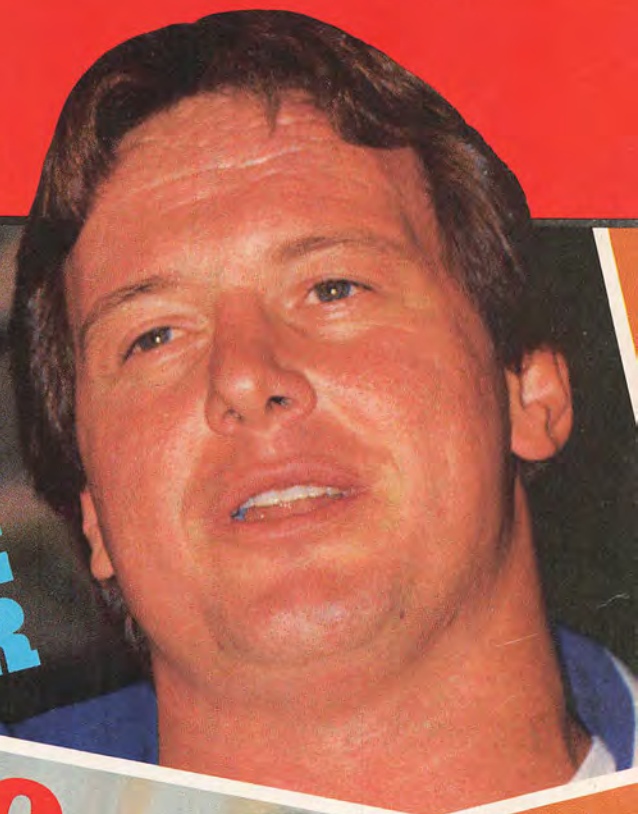
Wrestling

THE WWF'S HATE TRIANGLE!

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**WHY THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
MUST LEAVE THE AWA—NOW!**

**Back To The Bottom Of The UWF Ladder:
CAN TERRY TAYLOR BREAK OUT
OF HIS COSTLY SLUMP?**

**RIC FLAIR: "THERE MAY BE FOUR HORSEMEN,
BUT THERE'S ONLY
ONE RIC FLAIR!"**



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If you don't think so, just watch what turns women's heads on the beach. They get turned on by well-built guys. They're the ones with the prettiest girls. It's a rare fellow who doesn't want to look good in his clothes and is happy with a skinny frame, who has not envied men who weighed a little more, had a better appetite and generally displayed a physical fitness that spoke of health and well-being. True, while doctors and nutrition specialists warn against being fat, very little is said about the equal or greater evils of being underweight. So there's more to it than cosmetic aspects. Skinny is not only unattractive. It is also unhealthy. Gaining weight could mean gaining health for you.

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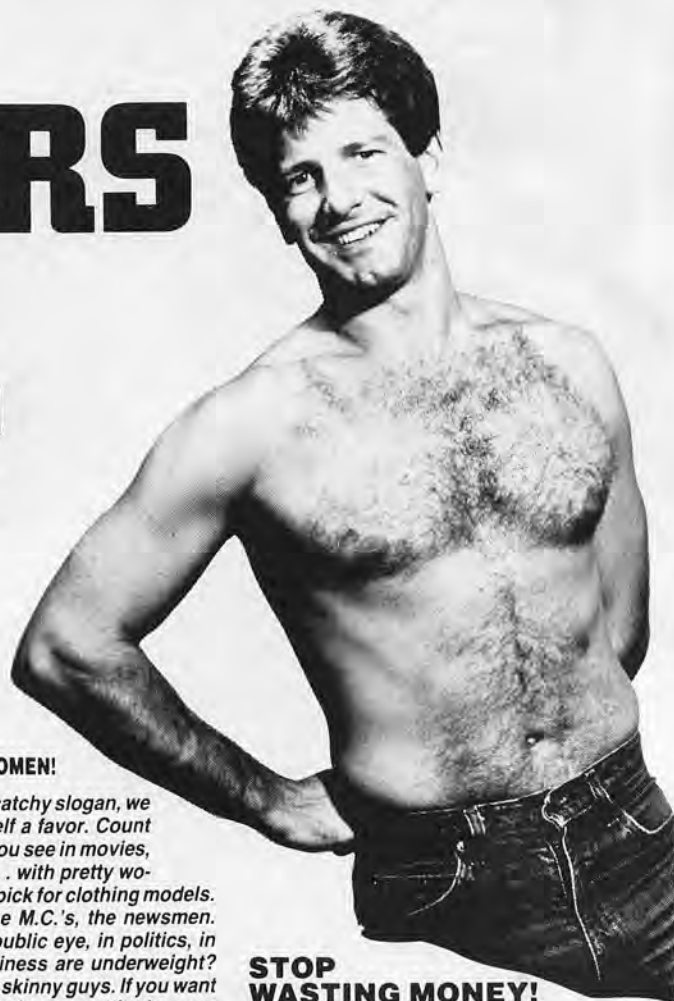
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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*If you think that's just a catchy slogan, we hope you will do yourself a favor. Count how many skinny men you see in movies, or on TV or anywhere . . . with pretty women. Notice whom they pick for clothing models. See the announcers, the M.C.'s, the newsmen. How many men in the public eye, in politics, in leadership roles in business are underweight? Not even astronauts are skinny guys. If you want to experience a change in your attitude, your business progress, your lifestyle, see what 5, 10, 15 pounds can do for you. See how it adds to your personal esteem, your confidence and, best of all, your well-being. Your day will come . . . and thank your lucky stars, it's within sight with *ShapeUp* working for you.*

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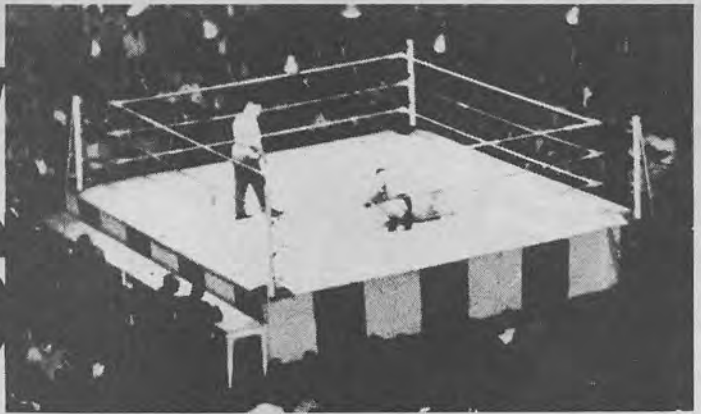
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A WONDERFUL DECISION?

An open letter to Paul Orndorff:

Paul, do you realize what you have done? When you fired Bobby "The Brain-Damaged Weasel" Heenan after WrestleMania 1, you made a smart move. Look how the fans took to you. Then The Weasel put a \$50,000 bounty on you. You were so good that no one could collect it.

Those days are gone, Paul. Now when you're sitting at ringside with your crutches by your seat and your wrestling career ended, blame only yourself. You can sit and wonder what Blubber Belly Bundy and Little John Fuddy Dud have done with their share of the bounty. Do you think for one minute the Weasel has forgotten that you fired him in public? No, Paul, he hasn't, and now you are right where he wants you.

Sooner or later you will be getting what Andre and Big Jim got from that gang. It's really too bad; a man with your skills being crippled by the Goon Squad. You're right in your prime and could go a long way. Too bad you blew it.

RAYMOND RAY POWERS
Holmesville, NY

I think Paul Orndorff is the greatest wrestler in the WWF. Hulk Hogan deserved what he got. I enjoyed watching the Real American, Paul Orndorff, beat up Hogan, a closet champion and a chump. His keeping the belt is wrecking the WWF. Orndorff should be honored for what he did to Hogan. Orndorff is better built, wrestles better, and gives fans 100 percent true talent every time he steps into the ring.



Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff gestures to the booing crowd. Correspondents to "Sincerely Yours" are split over whether or not Orndorff made the right move in dumping Hulk Hogan to join the Bobby Heenan family.

He knew that by staying with Hogan he'd ruin his career. Paul Orndorff will be the champion soon. Hulkamania went down the drain a long time ago. Orndorffmania will reign forever! Bobby "The Brain" Heenan is a great manager and he once again manages a great wrestler, Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff.

JAY JONES
Edina, MN

LEX SHOULD LEAVE FLORIDA

I am writing in response to your article "Lex Luger Must See the Light: It's Time To Leave The Sunshine State" in your December 1986 issue. I

have to say I agreed with you totally. Lex belongs in the World Championship area. Lex is already a landslide winner for Rookie of the Year. He's beaten the best Florida has to offer. In the World Championship area he would become an overnight champion. There are certainly more belts to win up here.

I'd like to see Luger against Nikita Koloff for the U.S. title, and he could team up with Magnum T.A. to go after the U.S. tag team belts held by Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev. Lex could also get many more title shots at Ric Flair and help The Road

(Continued on page 48)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Peter
King

Editor-in-Chief

Nikita Koloff was just finishing an interview with a Charlotte, North Carolina, newspaper reporter when a knock came on his hotel room door. In came his Kremlin-appointed road manager, Yuri Brehzkov. Brehzkov was holding a bottle of Russian vodka, and his walk was as unsteady as his laugh was loud. "Good news, Comrade!" he yelled. "Turn on TV and see."

Nikita clicked on the TV, and was immediately hit with the somber face of a woman newscaster from a local station. She was ending her report, and Nikita heard the following words: "... in critical condition. Prognosis for Magnum's full recovery are at this time bleak. Doctors will not speculate as to when, or if, Magnum will walk again."

"Ha!" screamed Yuri Brehzkov. "You need not worry about him anymore, Comrade. Why, you will ... " The words were forced back into Ivan's throat by the beefy hand of Nikita Koloff. "Get out! Now! Leave me alone!" he said. Brehzkov took a close look at the hard, pale face of Nikita Koloff, and he turned and walked out of the room.

Dusty Rhodes picks up the story from here: "It was early in the morning when the phone rang. I had just heard about Magnum T.A.'s accident, and I was devastated. I picked up the phone and heard Nikita Koloff's voice. I lost it, you see, and started cussin' up a storm. 'You Russian so-and-so, I'll kill you!' I screamed. But his voice was calm, sad even. He said he wanted to meet me, to talk about Magnum. I figured I was headin' into an ambush, but I agreed. If it's about Magnum, I had to listen."

The two men talked for more than three hours. Nikita convinced Dusty he was truly touched by what had happened to Magnum. "He said he wanted to fill the void left by T.A.," Dusty said. "Well, no one can ever replace Magnum T.A. But I'll stand by this man's side as long as he feels this way. It ain't for me, and it ain't for him. It's for Magnum."

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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by Stu
Saks

THE SPOT RESERVED for the Missouri title in our "Roll Call Of Champions" on page 33 is marked "Title Vacant." It has been since the September 1986 issue. After all this time, maybe we should just drop the title. It's been discussed. Maybe keeping it in is just wishful thinking.

Oh, how I wish they would reactivate that title.

In this office, just say the words "Missouri title" and the rejoinder will be . . . hold on, let me try it.

"MISSOURI TITLE," says me.

"STEPPINGSTONE," replies Craig Peters, who is busy typing "On The Road" at the next desk.

Works every time.

"Steppingstone" is actually a shortened version of the complete response, "Steppingstone to the NWA title." That's what the Missouri title has come to mean to wrestling over the years. From September 1972, when Harley Race defeated Pak Song in the final round of a tournament to name the first Missouri champion, to May 1986, when Harley ended his seventh Missouri title reign to wrestle in the WWF, the Missouri title was considered the most important regional title in the NWA. Steppingstone to the NWA title? Well, that's not completely accurate. While it's true that six Missouri titlists at one time held the NWA title, a quick check of the record book reveals that only two men (Race and Kerry Von Erich) held the Missouri title before holding the NWA title, while the other four (Gene Kiniski, Dory Funk Jr., Jack Brisco, and Ric Flair) won Missouri title *after* already having served as NWA champion. Bob Backlund used the Missouri title as a steppingstone, but he stepped all the way to the WWF, where he reigned for just shy of six years.

The proper rejoinder to the words "MISSOURI TITLE" should really be

(Continued on page 52)

I JUST DON'T have any column ideas this month. I really don't. I'm burnt out, and Stu Saks is screaming at me from the next desk: "It's deadline day! We need a column!"

I could write about television wrestling. In my "In Focus" column over in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, I've been soliciting mail from readers regarding the schedules of TV wrestling they get in their area. Believe it or not, many cities receive well over 30 hours of wrestling per week. Don't you ever wonder what all this TV wrestling does to a fan? I do. I think it makes the fan unwilling to go to live matches. I also feel that it raises the expectations of the fan; when you're exposed to so much wrestling, you tend to get bored quickly. It's kind of like what's happening in the movies. After Charles Bronson blows away 30 punks in *Death Wish 2*, he's got to blow away 40 to make *Death Wish 3* any kind of reasonable success. Expectations are raised, and the fan begins chanting "Bor-ing!" at matches that, a year ago, would have had him standing on his seat with excitement.



Nikita Koloff

I'd like to know what the readers of *Inside Wrestling* think about this topic. Write to me, and maybe someday I will write a column about it. But I'm too burnt out now. I can't keep my concentration on anything for more than a paragraph. So I won't. But I will make a few comments about assorted topics in wrestling right now that have been crossing my mind.

Nikita Koloff turning good. You know something, I haven't even sorted out my own feelings about this.

The AWA. As Gorilla Monsoon is fond of saying, "Give

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

me a break!" I've heard Scott Hall wants out of the AWA badly, and if that's true I can't blame him at all. It's 1950s thinking like calling Hall "Magnum" Scott Hall that makes the AWA the reservoir of ridiculousness, the bastion of boredom, that it truly is. The only bright spots in an otherwise hideous federation are The Midnight Rockers, Jimmy Snuka, and Col. DeBeers. They need a massive talent influx—and they need it yesterday.

"Steppingstone!" There, I had to say it. Stu Saks, in between exhortations to finish my column, just said something about the Missouri title. If you want to know more, I suggest you turn to page 10 and his "Behind The Dressing Room Door" column.

Now if that paragraph isn't testament to burnt-outness, I don't know what is. It's been a tough month here, folks.

Speaking of tough months, I have to say something about Magnum T.A., though I really can't say anything that hasn't already been said. As of press time, Magnum is still not off the critical list. It's a tragedy of unparalleled proportions, and my prayers go out to Magnum, his family, his friends, and his fans. Magnum was driving his Porsche 55 miles an hour in a 45 mile zone; he was not drinking. I don't want to get preachy in the face of tragedy, but I feel compelled to point out that drunk driving is a major national problem, and the fact that an accident like this can happen to someone who is totally sober only points up the seriousness of the drunk driving problem. As far as the 55 in a 45 zone goes, I think everyone does that. I know I usually drive a good 10 or 15 miles above the speed limit most of the time; I'll think twice about it next time I sit behind the wheel.

Probably the main reason I'm burnt out and unable to extend my attention span past one paragraph this month is that I've been spending the better portion of my days and nights working on the 100-page super spectacular year-end double issue (is that enough superlatives for you?) of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. It goes on sale in about a week, if it isn't already, and it's something you won't want to miss. It's packed with color, too. More color than last year. More color than an issue of *Wrestling 86*. Buy it. Because if you buy enough copies, maybe I'll get a raise, and then maybe I can pay Dave Rosenbaum to write my column, and then Stu can yell at him for copy instead of at me.

There, Stu. It's still deadline day, and I've finished my column. Without going on the road. Hey—you didn't say it had to be *about* anything. □

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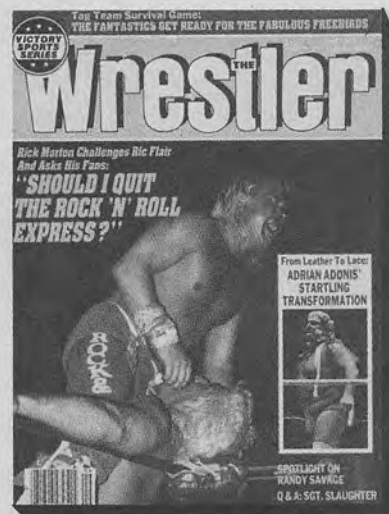
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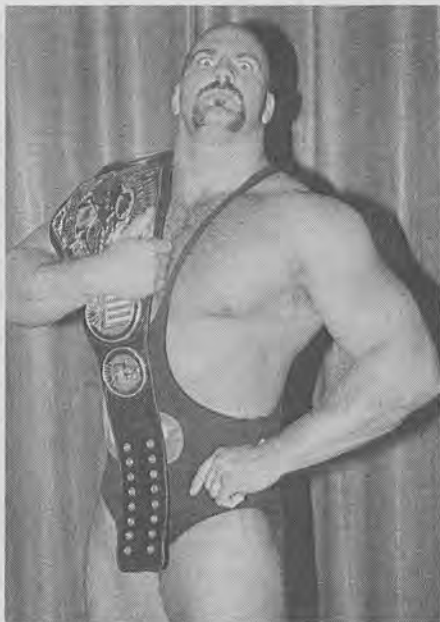
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NAMES MAKI

There's plenty of news to report this month, but the serious injuries suffered by **Magnum T.A.** in a one-car accident on October 14 at 2:30 a.m. outweigh everything in significance. This terrible tragedy is reported in-depth in the current issue of *The Wrestler*, but this incident touches more than just one man. Its significance reaches the entire wrestling community.

Nikita Koloff has already come to the aid of his archrival and is fighting in the name of Magnum T.A. **Dusty Rhodes** was overcome with shock by



NIKITA KOLOFF

the accident. And **Baby Doll**, a woman who has never had good relations with T.A., even when she was Dusty's valet, said something that really points out the respect Magnum's peers have for him.

"We never had much to talk about, but I could see that he is a determined man," said Baby Doll, who has since gone out on her own to manage **The Warlord**. "He stood up for what he thought was right and was very resistant to change. If you did him wrong,



JIMMY SNUKA

you'd have to prove yourself over and over again. Me and Magnum never did hit it off. I just pray that things work out for him."

To me, the most amazing part of this whole ordeal is the way the fans have responded. I was told that the lobby at Charlotte Memorial Hospital was packed with crying fans for days after Magnum was admitted, and thousands of phone calls were received. Right now, I join the entire wrestling community in praying for Magnum's recovery. The sport misses him dearly.

On a somewhat lesser scale, **Jimmy Snuka's** career is in serious danger. It happened during a match between "The Superfly" and **Col. DeBeers** to decide the number one challenger to **Nick Bockwinkel's** AWA World title. Snuka was getting ready for his Superfly leap off the ropes when DeBeers pushed him off and onto the concrete floor. DeBeers piledrived Snuka on the floor several times, and finally the paramedics were called in. Snuka was sent to the hospital and was diagnosed as having severe neck, hip, knee, and

foot injuries. Doctors predict his career is over.

The tag team of WWF World champion **Hulk Hogan** and **Roddy Piper** seems to be living a peaceful coexistence. The two refuse to shake hands and engage in very little conversation before their matches, but they have fared well, as expected, against **Cowboy Bob Orton** and **Harley Race** and Orton and **Magnificent Muraco**. And although Hogan and Piper could not be described as friends, fans in WWF arenas are ecstatic over what was once a very unlikely pairing.



RODDY PIPER

Speaking of unlikely pairings, or matchups in this case, Intercontinental champion **Randy Savage** is scheduled to defend his title against **Jake Roberts** on November 15 in the Los Angeles Sports Arena. There's no bad blood between these two rulebreakers, but the WWF decided that Roberts deserved a shot at Savage. I agree and would like to praise the WWF for this

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

move toward fairer matchmaking. On the same card, Hogan is slated to wrestle **Hercules Hernandez**.

Newcomer **Hacksaw Higgins** is the number one challenger to both **Barry Windham's** Florida belt and **Lex Luger's** Southern belt. Higgins, a 320-pounder from Buffalo, New York, is managed by **Sir Oliver Humperdink**... **Misty Blue** is also in the Florida area and is defending her NWA U.S. title against **Linda Dallas**... **Bubba** is in pursuit of **Jerry Lawler's** Mid-Southern title and has vowed to win it by the end of 1986... **The Assassin**, a former friend of Pacific Northwest champion **Rip Oliver**, has returned to the area and is asking for a title match. But Oliver, who has a broken right thumb, refuses to wrestle him and has sent "Oliver's Clan" of **Mike Miller** and **Abughdadien** to eliminate The Assassin.

Jack Victory and **John Tatum** are the new UWF tag team champions,



JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY

having defeated **The Fantastics** on October 16 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The new champs figure to confront a number of challenges for their belts, most notably from **Eddie Gilbert** and **Sting**. In this case, though, the challenger has what the champ wants. The prize in this case might be the beautiful **Missy Hyatt**, who recently decided to side with Gilbert. Tatum is furi-



SUNSHINE

ous over this and hopes that having the belt around his waist will entice Missy to return.

There's other big news in the UWF. **The Freebirds** announced that they have taken on **Sunshine** as their manager. "I've always been with winners and The Freebirds are winners," says Sunshine. This sets up another interesting feud in the UWF area. Hyatt and Sunshine were enemies in the World Class and should confront each other pretty soon.

Crusher Yurkof, formerly known as **Bam Bam Bigelow**, won the World Class TV title from **Steve Simpson**. Yurkof appeared to be in trouble after missing a "nuclear splash." He managed to get off a dropkick, but his fall seemed to hurt him more than the kick hurt his opponent. As the referee asked Yurkof about his condition, Simpson mounted

the ropes. Yurkof continued occupy the referee while his manager, **Larry Sharpe**, grabbed Simpson's legs, bringing the champion crashing down on the ropes. With Simpson in great pain, Yurkof had no trouble moving in for the pin.

Japanese wrestling champion **Antonio Inoki** scored an eighth-round pin over former heavyweight champ **Leon Spinks** in their wrestler vs. boxer match in Japan... **Jos LeDuc** has come to the Canadian International area and is after **The Great Samu's**



DAVID SHULTZ

International belt. **David Shultz**, in the area as a fan favorite, is also after the title... Continental Wrestling has announced that they will scrap the Southeast tag team belts and have a one-night tournament to name the new Continental tag team championship. **The Bullet** and **Steve Armstrong**, who reigned as Southeast tag team champions, are favored to win the tournament.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches. □

BACK ISSUES OF



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March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

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January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

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March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

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January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

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July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

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December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

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February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

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THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on this magazine.]

UNWINDING AFTER A difficult week. Seventy hours behind a desk, another 16 in the field. Simple pleasures will suffice: a sandwich, a beer, a moment's thoughts to do with as I please . . .

. . . The phone rings. The power to speak when I want, to whom I want, is a not-so-incidental feature of an answering machine, and this time I allow the machine to work its magic.

"I'm Eddie, I'm not here, but I'll get back to you. Be-beep."

"Yo, Fan, this is JT. Just want you know I'm home in Jersey. My pop passed away last night. The funeral's at nine tomorrow morning at O'Reiley's in Wildwood. Otherwise I'll catch you later. Be-beep."

It's half past midnight. Without traffic, and with a smooth-running automobile, Wildwood is 2½ hours door to door. In my '78 Grand Prix, battling late night Atlantic City madness, Wildwood is at least another hour away.

But then sometimes there isn't any choice.

Supplies: a six-pack of Coca-cola to stay awake, and my thoughts. John Taylor Sr.—JT was his oldest son and namesake—was a tough-as-iron Philadelphia cop who just happened to turn me on to professional wrestling. After 35 years on the force, Taylor had retired, purchased his dream ranch in Florida, and was set to leave the next day with his wife Helen, the two of them anxious to cash in on the years



In his glory days, Chief Jay Strongbow had many fans, including 11-year-old Eddie Ellner, who was determined to start a fan club the first night he saw the Indian wrestle.

he had mortgaged away busting his hump in South Philly.

While her husband chased bandits, Helen raised six children, slept standing on innumerable occasions, volunteering her days to charity, her nights to family. The drama begins to unfold as inexorably as a love affair runaround.

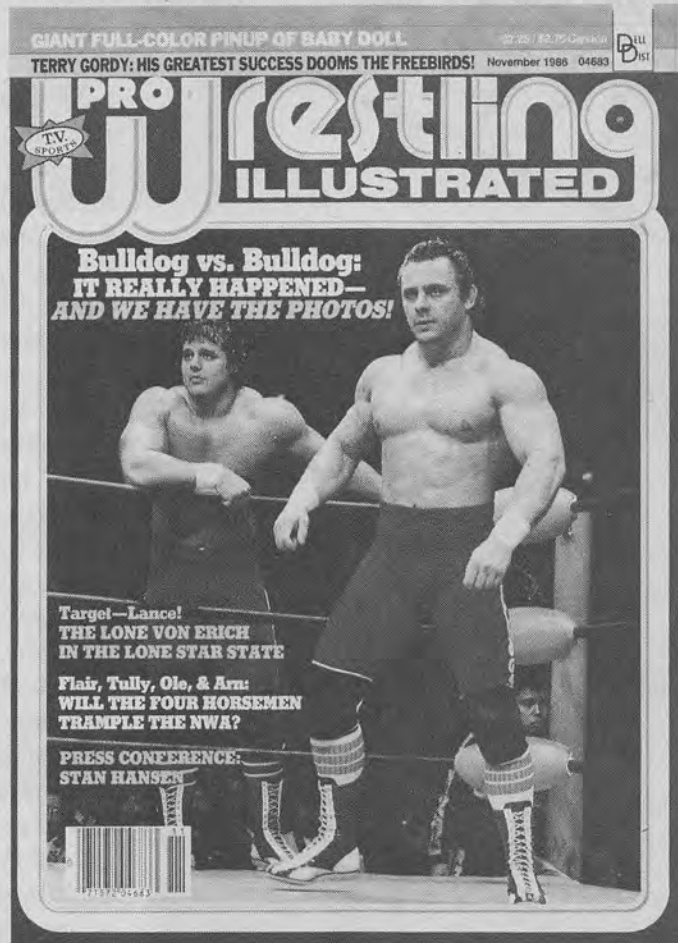
. . . "Helen, I got this little pain in my chest." Helen dutifully brings some Ben Gay, perhaps thinking of the wonders the moist Florida heat will work on her husband's bursitis . . .

The rest of thought fizzled into the blur of a state trooper's flashlight. Speeding on the New Jersey Turnpike. "Where are you rushing to son," I'm asked. "Racing to a funeral," I say. "Go slower, son, else they'll make it a doubleheader."

I was 11 when John Taylor took me and his eldest son to the Philadelphia Spectrum. We watched enthralled as Pedro Morales bested the Hawaiian Giant, King Curtis. I became hooked on

(Continued on page 54)

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NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum



When Associate Editor Craig Peters hugged Missy Hyatt, it drove Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum mad because Peters is married and he isn't. Rosenbaum has joined the legion of men who've fallen for the rulebreaking valet.

IT DOESN'T TAKE a Ph.D. to realize that Eddie Gilbert, John Tatum, and Missy Hyatt have a problem. Gilbert might think he doesn't have a problem because he has Missy, but he does. And Missy

might not think she has a problem because she has both of these men on a string, but she does. As for John Tatum, well, he has a pretty big problem and he knows it.

All three are involved in the oldest of the world's problems, a classic love triangle: Johnny loves Missy, Missy loves Eddie, Eddie loves Missy, and Missy loves Johnny. And a pattern has developed already: Boy meets girl, boy falls in love with girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back. Or does he?

As I said, it doesn't take a Ph.D. to realize that Gilbert, Tatum, and Hyatt have a problem. And if you're a member of the editorial staff at *Inside Wrestling*, all it takes is two eyes and two ears to realize that Dave Rosenbaum, that's right, the same Dave Rosenbaum who writes this column, also has a problem. A serious problem.

Because you can add me to the ever-growing list of men who have developed this fatal flaw, a strong attraction to Missy Hyatt. If the truth must be known, Missy Hyatt is the main reason why I watch professional wrestling. When the tape of Joe Pedicino's weekly *Superstars Of Wrestling* arrives at our office on Tuesday or Wednesday, I watch the first hour very carefully. That's the hour that *Bill Watts Presents*, the UWF's television program, is aired. That's when I get my weekly dose of Missy Hyatt.

Most of the remaining seven hours of *Superstars Of Wrestling* are watched in fast forward scan. Sorry, Joe, you just can't fill a screen like Missy does. Who cares if Missy constantly interferes in matches? Who cares if she's constantly bitching, whining, pouting, and using Tatum and Gilbert to get what she wants? Who cares if she really doesn't give a damn

(Continued on page 56)

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LANDOVER, MD By Ernie Aschenbach



HULK HOGAN
vs.
PAUL ORNDORFF



Hogan put his WWF title on the line against Paul Orndorff as the hottest feud in wrestling continued in a steel cage match. Orndorff attacked Hogan before the bell rang and nearly escaped through the cage door for a quick victory. Both men nearly won the match several times, and after 15 minutes both were tired and dazed. Finally, Hogan clotheslined Orndorff, followed with a flying elbow off the ropes, and climbed over the cage.

OTHER BOUTS: Randy Savage defeated The Honky Tonk Man ... Hercules Hernandez and Billy Jack Haynes battled to a draw ... Junkyard Dog pinned Bob Bradley ... Kamala beat Lanny Poffo ... Cpl. Kirchner defeated Steve Lombardi ... Pedro Morales defeated The Red Demon ... Koko B. Ware beat Tiger Chung Lee.

GREENSBORO, NC By Matt Foster



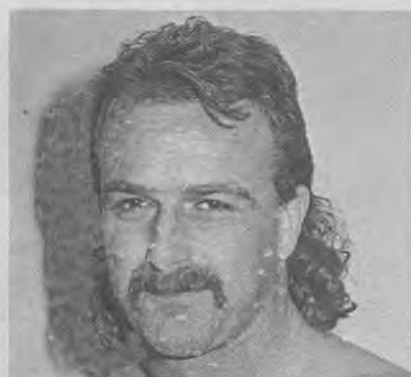
DUSTY RHODES
vs.
BIG BUBBA



This was a Louisville street fight at the Greensboro Coliseum. Big Bubba started off strongly and looked like he was going to overwhelm Rhodes, but Dusty recovered and hit Big Bubba with a couple of bionic elbows, threw him out of the ring, and piledrived him into the concrete floor. Rhodes jumped back into the ring and referee Tommy Young counted out Big Bubba, giving Dusty the victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Ole & Arn Anderson defeated The Rock 'n' Roll Express by disqualification ... Dick Murdoch defeated Jimmy Garvin by disqualification ... Don Kernodle beat Baron Von Raschke ... Krusher Khrushchev defeated Nelson Royal.

BUFFALO, NY By Les A. Aphsha



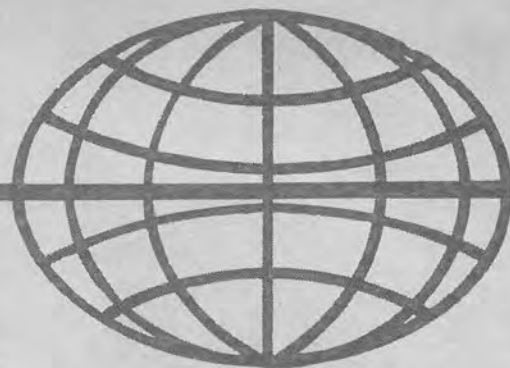
JAKE ROBERTS
vs.
JUNKYARD DOG



Pandemonium broke loose in this match before 20,000 fans at The War Memorial Auditorium. During the bout, Junkyard Dog ran from the ring and hid Roberts' snake in the sack under the ring. Roberts ran out of the ring and couldn't locate the snake, then got back in the ring just in time to beat the count. But Junkyard Dog was waiting and cradled "The Snake" for the pin. Roberts went berserk and DDT'd Junkyard Dog, who was saved by Billy Jack Haynes.

OTHER BOUTS: Bob Orton pinned Pedro Morales ... Haynes and Hercules Hernandez battled to a 20-minute draw ... Kamala beat Lanny Poffo ... Koko B. Ware defeated Steve Lombardi ... Cpl. Kirchner beat Tiger Chung Lee.

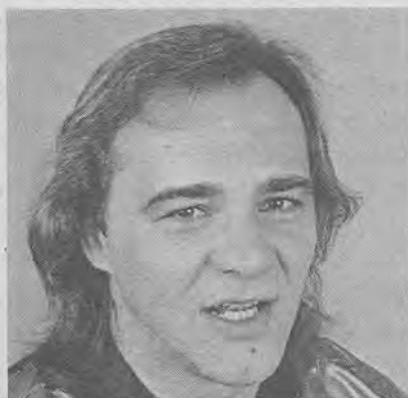
WRESTLING CAPITALS



ST. PAUL, MN By Michele Davis



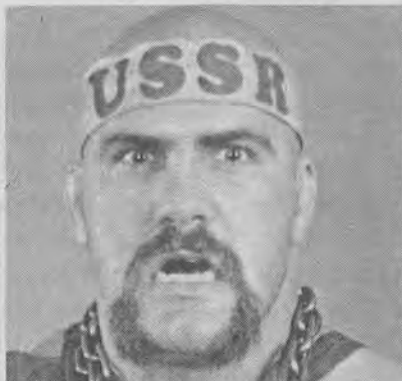
**NICK BOCKWINKEL
vs.
LARRY ZBYSZKO**



AWA World Champion Nick Bockwinkel took on archrival Larry Zbyszko in a non-title match at the St. Paul Civic Center. Before the bell rang, the referee was knocked out and Bockwinkel attacked Zbyszko. Bockwinkel executed a piledriver, but Super Ninja climbed into the ring and dropkicked the champ. Ninja then put Zbyszko on top of Bockwinkel and the referee counted out the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Curt Hennig won a battle royal ... Ali Khan drew with Steve Olsonowski ... Jimmy Snuka defeated Boris Zukhov ... The Midnight Rockers & Crusher Blackwell beat Master Blaster, Buddy Rose, & Doug Somers ... Curt Hennig beat Col. DeBeers ... Super Ninja defeated Earthquake Ferris.

PITTSBURGH, PA By Dean Grande



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
BRAD ARMSTRONG**



The Pittsburgh Civic Center was the scene for a thrilling U.S. title match between champion Nikita Koloff and the fiery Brad Armstrong. It was a see-saw battle as both men exchanged moves, until Koloff tossed Armstrong out of the ring. Armstrong stormed into the ring, hitting Nikita with a series of blows, and had Koloff down for several two-counts. After a mid-ring collision, Koloff beat Armstrong to his feet, hit him with the Russian sickle, and scored the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair defeated Dusty Rhodes by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat Ole & Arn Anderson ... Wahoo McDaniel won by disqualification over Tully Blanchard ... The Midnight Express wrestled to a draw against Dick Murdoch & Ron Garvin ... Jim Garvin pinned Hector Guerrero.

MEMPHIS, TN By Larry Duffy



**JERRY LAWLER
vs.
DIRTY RHODES**



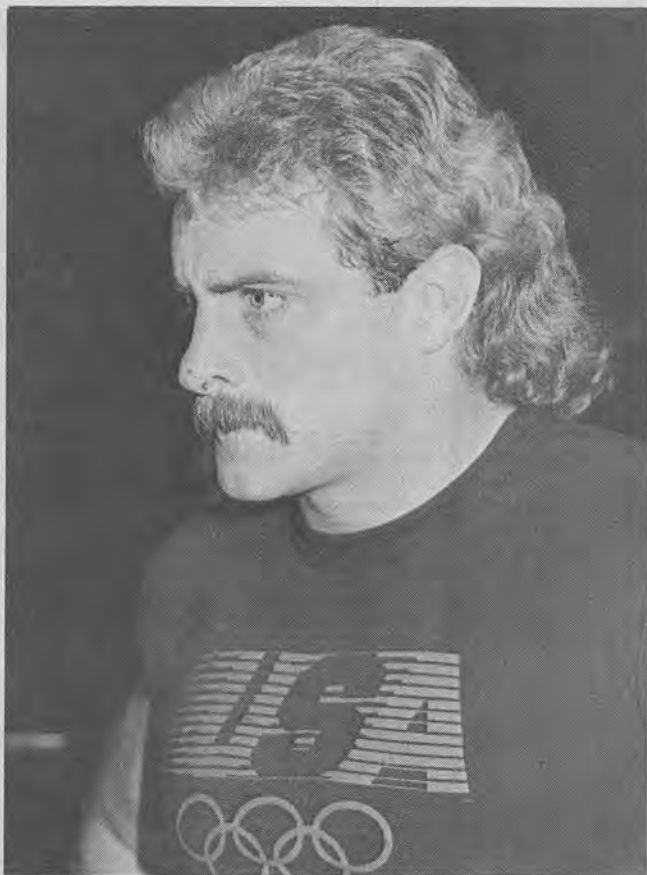
In the main event at the Mid-South Coliseum, Jerry "The King" Lawler defended his Mid-Southern title against challenger Dirty Rhodes. The match was virtually even throughout, but things got out of hand when Don Bass ran out of the dressing room and into the ring. Bass and Rhodes attacked Lawler and the champion was awarded the match by disqualification.

OTHER BOUTS: Big Bubba beat Tracey Smothers for the Mid-America belt ... William "Freezer" Thompson beat Bubba Monroe ... Boy Tony beat David Haskins ... The Animals beat Excitement Inc. ... Pat Tanaka & Giant Hillbilly beat Dennis Hall & The Ninja ... Tommy Rich & Jeff Jarrett won by DQ over Soto & Goto ... Jerry Jarrett beat Tojo Yamamoto in a martial arts match.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

CHARLOTTE, NC: I'm stunned. My mind keeps flashing back and forth like a slide machine, the scenes, past and present, popping up in my mind. A great baseball career, another black man playing in Brooklyn, beloved, honored, the mangled car, the man in a wheel chair, never able to play again. Years later, a great wrestling career, a proud white man defending the honor of the United States, the mangled car, the man lying in bed. Will he ever wrestle again? Will he ever walk again? Will he ever feel again? Will he survive this horrible accident? I chose sportswriting over news because I didn't want to deal with blood, murder, and crippled bodies, and



MAGNUM T.A.

now it haunts me all over again, just like it has so many times before. Yes, I have logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist, but I still don't understand why these things only happen to the good people. I sit in the dark hotel television room, watching the old black and white Zenith, and a commercial comes on. "The Magic of Zamfir." I've never heard of this Zamfir and I've never seen this supposed instrument he plays, but I dial the toll-free number anyway and order a copy of the record. I hang up the phone and realize the stupidity of what I'd done. What am I doing here? All I can do is wait. When I heard about the accident, I immediately rushed down to Charlotte. It was my journalistic duty. But then I was told that he's only allowed visitors from immediate family members, and besides, he can't speak because he's on a respirator. I prayed for Roy Campanella, the Dodger great. I pray for Magnum T.A. I dedicate this column to him.

TOKYO, JAPAN: Twice in three months I find myself in Japan and I'm ill at ease. I look around the arena and everybody looks the same, only the names have been changed. You'd think these people would have longer memories. *June 25, 1986.* Right here, in this city. Muhammad Ali vs. Antonio Inoki for something called the "World Martial Arts Championship" and Inoki lies on the mat for 15 rounds and Ali doesn't know what to do. We were pickpocketed, robbed. Well, the press has better memories. No American reporters, just Matt because I'm usually willing to give a second chance. But this has all the makings of a sleeper, Antonio Inoki vs. Leon Spinks in another wrestler vs. boxer match. Inoki is still a fine wrestler, but he's gotten old. Spinks is an undisciplined former heavyweight champion who's just looking for another big payday and doesn't care what he has to do to get it. Somehow, they got almost 12,000 people to shell out some

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

pretty hefty sums of cash to see this, and from the sound of the crowd, they weren't terribly disappointed. Probably because Inoki is a national hero and he managed to pin Spinks at 1:33 of the eighth round. Everybody is happy, but as I walk out, I can't help thinking what this all means. The only similarity between boxing and wrestling is that they both take place in a ring, but even the rings aren't the same size. The boxer is trying to knock out the wrestler and the wrestler is trying to pin the boxer. This isn't my idea of sport. I see Mitsu Arakawa on the way out and he doesn't look happy. Look what they've done to our sport, Mitsu.

BUFFALO, NY: There's never been a safer town for one's emotions. Not much happens here. This town really could have been something, but the canal shut down and things changed. The downtown area looks like Brooklyn, but not as big, and the sky is almost always gray. Down by the shores of Lake Erie you can watch ships coming in at this time of year and old men, who have been doing this all their

lives, loading and unloading the carriers, another eight hours, another day, another paycheck. In Buffalo, people's main concerns are working an honest day and feeding their families. That's the way it should be. Then this millionaire kid named Jim Kelly signed up with the football team and all of a sudden, the city became celebrity happy. This is the town whose main claim to fame is chicken wings, and all of a sudden they're acting as if they're big time. Jim Kelly has too fresh a face for this place. One false move and they'll run him right out. I can't worry about football. I'm here for wrestling and wings, although the hot ones give me indigestion. Anyway, this isn't a bad wrestling town and over 20,000 packed The Aud for a pretty damn good card. Hogan beats Orndorff by disqualification, Junkyard Dog stuns everybody and pins Jake Roberts, and then this sleazy looking Elvis impersonator named the Honky Tonk Man manages to beat Savage into the ring and win by countout. Actually, I'm impressed by this Honky Tonk Man, but he's too much. Even for Buffalo. Just serve up another order of wings, Spike, and hold the tabasco sauce.

BOSTON, MA: Let me explain. While I was in Buffalo, I ran into this guy I knew from a newspaper years back and we got around to talking. Told me that he was covering the World Series for this rag of his and he invited me to come up to the pressbox at Fenway if the Red Sox made it. So I had a few days on my hands and figured I'd take him up on the offer and I'm glad I did. Listen, the last time I had been to a ballpark was when the St. Louis Browns were playing, so that should give you some idea, but when I walked into grand ol' Fenway, I figured that not much had changed. It really hasn't. People still come out to the ballpark with friends and family, eat hot dogs and drink beer, and talk baseball. That's really what it's all about, I guess, but by the end of the game, I realized once again that wrestling, with its man-to-man battles and all of its seamy undersides, is what this game old reporter is all about. Besides, Magnum T.A. is still on my mind. I think I'll head back to Charlotte. □



HONKY TONK MAN VS. RANDY SAVAGE

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

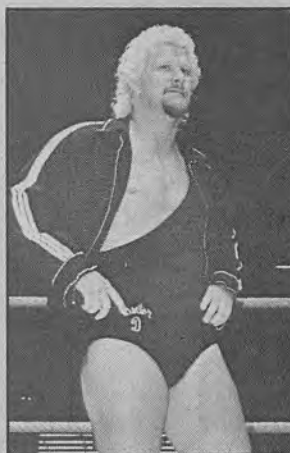
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



UNCLE ELMER

The loveable Elmer is wrestling in the Mid-Southern area under the name "Giant Hillbilly" and says that he has no plans to return to the WWF to rejoin Hillbilly Jim. Elmer has his eyes on the Mid-Southern tag team belts, held by Goto and

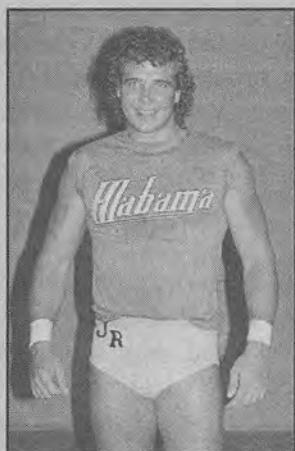
Sato, and has been teaming with Jerry Lawler and Tommy Rich. The competition is tough, however, because new tag teams seem to pop up in the Memphis area every week.



DAVID SHULTZ

The good doctor has gone north to Western Canada and Quebec and is hearing the cheers of the fans. Shultz has been teaming with Mr. Hito, another man formerly hated by the fans in western Canada. Their main rivals are Kerry

Brown and Duke Myers. In Quebec, he is after the International title currently held by The Great Samu. "It's very different getting cheered by the fans," says Shultz, "but I kind of like it."



JOHNNY RICH

The cousin of former NWA World champion Tommy Rich is trying to work his way up the AWA ladder and has not taken the easy route. He's been wrestling the likes of Larry Zbyszko and Col. DeBeers and has done quite

well. "The only way to get anywhere in this business is to wrestle the best," says Rich, whose long-range goal is the AWA World title. "I'm willing to take the test."



STAN HANSEN

Plenty has happened to the former AWA World champion since the controversial decision back in June that cost him the belt. After going on a tour of Japan, Hansen issued a number of challenges to Nick Bockwinkel, the man

who was awarded his belt by default. When he didn't receive a response, he decided to travel to Puerto Rico, where he is currently pursuing Carlos Colon's WWC title.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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CAPSULE PROFILE

BEGAN HIS CAREER as Blackjack Mulligan Jr., in honor of his famous father ... Attended West Texas State University, where he played football as well as wrestled ... Early in his career, decided to change his name to Barry Windham (*"I didn't want the fans to think I was taking advantage of my father's reputation"*) ... Came to national prominence wrestling in Florida, where in late-1980 and early-1981 he was two-time tag team champion and singles titlist ... Before he left Florida in early '81, Windham changed his name back to Mulligan Jr. (*"I changed my name so many times, it's even hard for me to remember why"*) ... Teamed with his father in the Mid-Atlantic, Georgia, and Tennessee areas before becoming Mid-Southern champion ... Returned to Florida and changed his name back to Barry Windham after his father turned rule-breaker and went to the WWF (*"My dad let me down. I had to let him know I didn't approve of what he'd done"*) ... Beat Greg Valentine in the final round of a tournament to become the Southern champion ... Received several title shots against NWA World champion Ric Flair (*"At the time, I was very young and a little wet behind the ears. Flair showed me what it takes to be a champion"*) ... Held the Florida title twice late in 1983 ...

BARRY WINDHAM

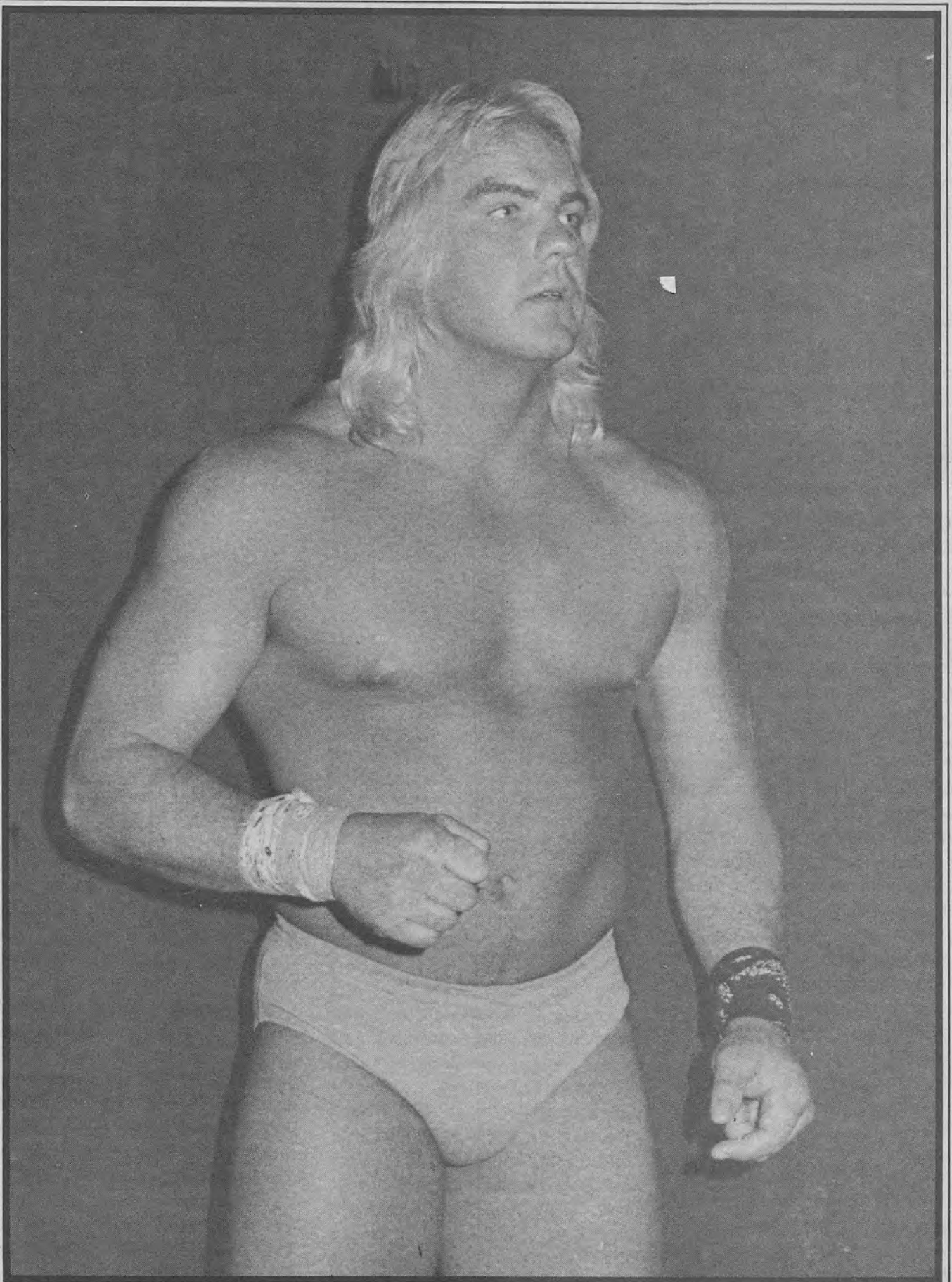


Barry Windham comes down with a legdrop on Hacksaw Higgins. The popular Texan has wrestled in almost every area of the country, winning single and tag team titles wherever he goes.

Around this time, Windham began his partnership with Mike Rotundo (*"By far the best partner I've ever had, and I've had many"*) ... Won the U.S. tag team titles from Ron Bass and Black Bart twice in 1984 ... Later that year, they surprised everyone by leaving the NWA for the WWF (*"Mike and I felt it was the right move at the right time. We couldn't pass it up"*) ... Under the management of Capt. Lou Albano, they won the WWF tag team championship from Adrian Adonis and Dick Murdoch in January 1985 ... Lost the belts to The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff at WrestleMania 1, but regained them in July ... A month later, Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake won the belts when their manager, Johnny Valiant, rubbed a lit cigar in Windham's face (*"It was the most*

painful thing you can imagine") ... Shortly thereafter, Windham returned to Florida and once again teamed up with his father and his younger brother Kendall, who had just started wrestling (*"After Kendall began his career, I began to get the bug to return to Florida"*) ... When Lex Luger became a star in the area, Windham battled him frequently, but they later teamed up to fight Oliver Humperdink and his stable (*"Lex and I went from spilling each other's blood to being a great tag team combination. It's incredible!"*) ... Windham currently holds the Florida title, which he won from an old rival, Ron Bass ... Frequently ranked in the NWA Top 10, Windham should be one of the top stars in wrestling for a long time (*"I feel like I'm at the top of my game right now."*) □

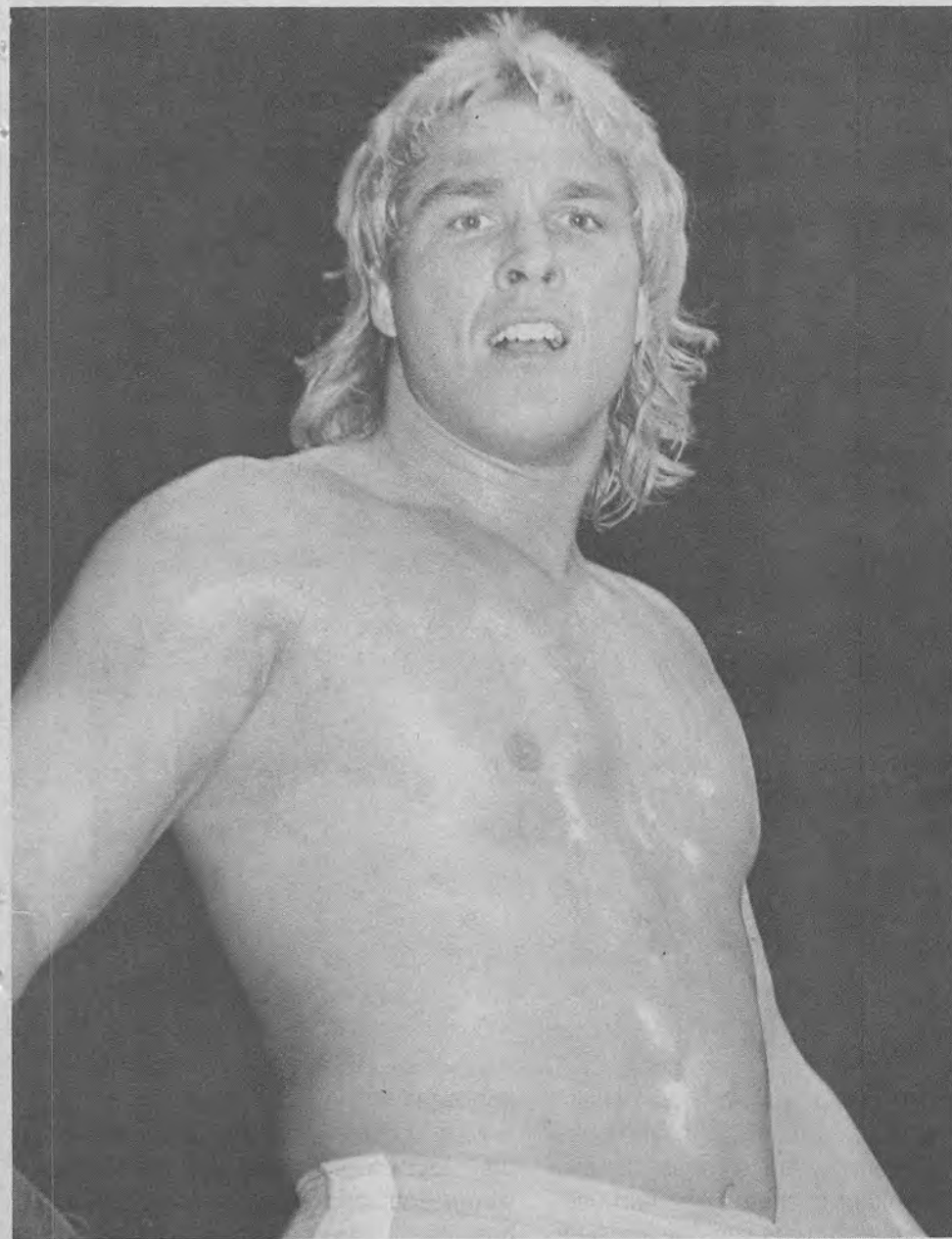
CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



BARRY WINDHAM

Back To The Bottom Of The UWF Ladder:

CAN TERRY TAYLOR BREAK OUT OF HIS COSTLY SLUMP?



EVEN HIS MOST loyal fans weren't shocked when Terry Taylor lost the UWF television title to Buddy Roberts. This less-than-surprising event was simply the end result of a sudden slump that has forced Taylor to reevaluate his style and reconsider his goals for 1987.

"I was looking forward to a great 1987," said a reserved Taylor. "I wanted to use the television title as a springboard to greater things, maybe winning the UWF title from Gordy or teaming with Ted [DiBiase] or Steve [Williams] and getting



Terry Taylor (left) will always have his fans, but right now he doesn't have a title: He lost the UWF television belt to Buddy Roberts, who slams him down (above). Suddenly, Taylor has been forced to reevaluate his goals for 1987.

One of the most popular wrestlers in the world is mired in a slump that has turned him into little more than just another UWF contender. Terry Taylor lost the UWF television title to Buddy Roberts and now faces an uphill battle in 1987



The new TV champion, Roberts, catches Taylor in a facelock (above left) and pounds away on his face (above right). Taylor kicks out of a pin attempt (below), but he couldn't kick off Roberts' challenge for the title.

those tag team belts. Now I have only two things on my mind: getting back on track and regaining the TV title."

Taylor, one of the most popular wrestlers in the UWF and the entire country, did not realize that he was in a slump until it was too late. On the day of September 28 in Oklahoma City, he prepared for his match against Roberts the same way he always does: out of bed early after a full eight hours of sleep, a complete breakfast, a few hours in the training room, some light jogging, lunch, a quick nap, then on to the arena. It's a routine he's followed every day throughout his career.

"I didn't see a need to change," admits Taylor. "As far as I was concerned, I still held the title and was wrestling as well as ever. I really thought that I was coasting along pretty good and it would take more than a Buddy Roberts to beat me. You just can't change a recipe for success."

But for weeks before the match against Roberts, things had not been going well for Taylor. He was taking more time than usual to put away rather ordinary competition ("I didn't really see that as a problem," he says) and seemed to lack his usual quick reflexes ("That's just something I wouldn't notice"). Although Taylor was winning matches on skill and smarts, he was actually mired in a slump.

"I noticed that something was



wrong but I wasn't sure what," said Steve Williams. "In all honesty, I really wasn't surprised that he lost in light of the way he had been wrestling. Terry is very businesslike, very sharp in the ring when he's on, but little things seemed to be getting to him. At his best, he's much better than Roberts, but this guy does have the ability to get a little lucky and beat Taylor. It just

happened."

Most people naturally assumed that Taylor would break out of his slump and quickly regain the title, but that hasn't happened. As weeks go by, Roberts' hold on the TV title seems to be getting stronger, while Taylor, perhaps overreaching, trying too hard, could be losing what made him champion in the first place.

"There's a certain amount of thought that goes into a wrestling match, but basically, everything is based on instinct, reflexes, and reaction," says Ted DiBiase. "If you think too much, the other wrestler is bound to catch on to your thought patterns. The trick is to get to the point where even you don't know what you're gonna do, and when that happens the competition can't anticipate your next move."

"In other words, Terry is a very intelligent man, but he's trying to go by the book, thinking out every step, every move, before he does it. He's now almost like a robot and robots don't win wrestling matches. Right now, I think Terry needs to relax, take it easy, not worry so much about winning back the title. When he does that, he'll have the belt around his waist in no time at all."

Naturally, there's another side to this story. The new TV champion insists that his victory had nothing to do with a Taylor slump. "What kind of crap are you guys feeding me?" growled Roberts. "You just refuse to admit that I'm a better wrestler than Taylor, so you make up some story about a slump. What kind of slump was he in? I was the first guy to beat him one-two-three and now I don't get any credit. Slump, my butt! I'm just better!"

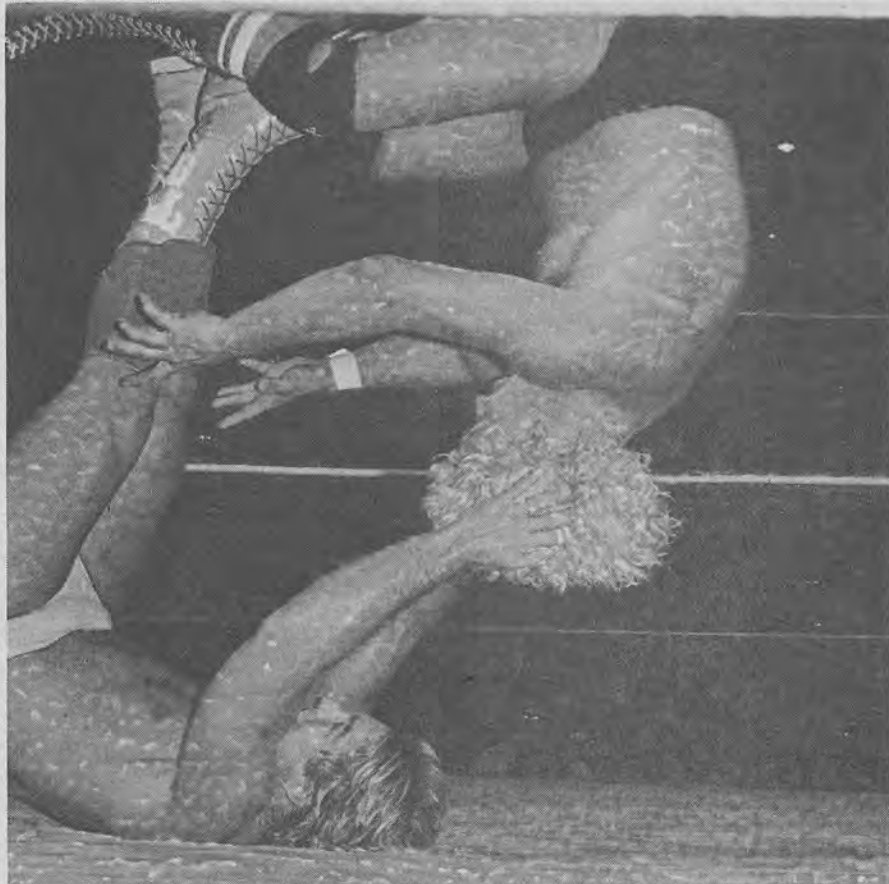
Roberts' victory gave The Freebirds two out of the three UWF titles. Gordy, of course, already holds the UWF heavyweight championship. Now, The Freebirds are ready to set their sights on The Fantastics, the UWF tag team champions.

Taylor, for one, is intent on keeping The Freebirds from establishing UWF dominance.

"These guys are a horrible example for our fans and I can't allow this to happen," says Taylor. "The UWF has the finest wrestlers in the world, and I can't believe that men like The Freebirds are good enough to hold all three belts. If I can regain the TV title, then I'll have



Taylor has Roberts trapped in a headscissors (above) and flips him off (below). Fans hope Taylor can break out of his slump before The Freebirds win all the belts in the UWF.



stopped their momentum."

Taylor's desire is admirable, but it might be his own worst enemy. He'll have enough trouble winning back the title and now he's added the burden of stopping The Freebirds all by himself. Perhaps Taylor is worrying about them too much.

"That's the way he's always been," agrees Williams. "Terry puts the weight of the world on his

shoulders and then gets upset when he can't take care of every problem. Listen, he's my friend and a great wrestler, but he can't take on the entire world. He's really pressing and that worries me. But he'll break out of it. I know he will because that's the kind of man he is. Terry Taylor will be back. You can bet on it."

For now, everybody is waiting. □

INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— TERRY GORDY
289, Chatanooga, TN | 8— PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL | 12— TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 5— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 9— KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX | 13— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX |
| 3— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 6— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 10— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 14— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN |
| | 7— LEX LUGAR
280, Chicago, IL | 11— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 15— BRUISER BRODY
284, Albuquerque, NM |

NWA

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 1— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 4— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX | 8— ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN | 12— RICK MORTON
228, Memphis, TN |
| 2— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 5— LEX LUGAR
280, Chicago, IL | 9— DICK MURDOCH
270, Waxahachie, TX | 13— RIP OLIVER
245, Tampa, FL |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 6— RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec | 10— SAM HOUSTON
222, Waco, TX | 14— CARLOS COLON
246, Bayamon, Puerto Rico |
| | 7— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 11— WENDELL COOLEY
220, Milton, FL | 15— EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET
227, South Wales |

AWA

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1— NICK BOCKWINKEL
245, Beverly Hills, CA | 4— COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa | 8— JOHNNY RICH
238, Hendersonville, TN | 12— SUPER NINJA
263, Japan |
| 2— LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA | 5— JIMMY SNUKA
251, Fiji Islands | 9— BORIS ZUKHOV
254, Leningrad, Russia | 13— GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN |
| 3— SCOTT HALL
290, Minneapolis, MN | 6— SILLO SAM
461, Baltimore, MD | 10— BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN | 14— EARTHQUAKE FERRIS
380, San Francisco, CA |
| | 7— CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN | 11— KEN TIMBS
235, Atlanta, GA | 15— MR. GO
238, Japan |

WWF

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 4— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 8— DICK SLATER
247, Pittsburgh, PA | 12— PEDRO MORALES
246, Culebra, Puerto Rico |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 5— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 9— HARLEY RACE
255, Kansas City, MO | 13— HERCULES HERNANDEZ
265, Tampa, FL |
| 3— PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL | 6— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI | 10— MAGNIFICENT MURACO
274, Sunset Beach, HI | 14— GEORGE STEELE
298, Detroit, MI |
| | 7— JOHN STUDD
364, Los Angeles, CA | 11— TITO SANTANA
245, Toluca, Mexico | 15— JUNKYARD DOG
280, Charlotte, NC |

MOST POPULAR

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1— RODDY PIPER
231, Glasgow, Scotland | 4— LEX LUGAR
280, Chicago, IL | 8— BARRY WINDHAM
236, Sweetwater, TX | 12— RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI |
| 2— HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA | 5— HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY | 9— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 13— JIMMY SNUKA
251, Fiji Islands |
| 3— DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX | 6— TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL | 10— STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Tulsa, OK | 14— TOMMY RICH
232, Hendersonville, TN |
| | 7— LANCE VON ERICH
260, Arlington, TX | 11— KEVIN VON ERICH
239, Denton, TX | 15— STEVE SIMPSON
230, Johannesburg, South Africa |

MOST HATED

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— PAUL ORNDORFF
253, Brandon, FL | 4— TERRY GORDY
289, Chatanooga, TN | 8— EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN | 12— TULLY BLANCHARD
235, San Antonio, TX |
| 2— RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL | 5— JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL | 9— RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN | 13— HARLEY RACE
255, Kansas City, MO |
| 3— RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN | 6— COL. DeBEERS
265, Cape Town, South Africa | 10— NIKITA KOLOFF
275, Moscow, Russia | 14— ARN ANDERSON
249, Minneapolis, MN |
| | 7— JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA | 11— MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA | 15— ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER
360, Sudan |

TAG TEAMS

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1— THE ROAD WARRIORS
No. 2 contenders to NWA World tag title | 6— THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
No. 3 contenders to NWA tag team title | 11— IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV
U.S. (World Championship) tag team champions |
| 2— THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
NWA World tag team champions | 7— PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS
AWA World tag team champions | 12— THE FABULOUS ONES
U.S. (Florida) tag team champions |
| 3— THE BRITISH BULLDOGS
WWF World tag team champions | 8— THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title | 13— BRETT HART & JIM NEIDHART
No. 2 contenders to WWF tag team title |
| 4— THE FANTASTICS
No. 1 contenders to UWF tag team title | 9— BUZZ SAWYER & MATT BORNE
World Class tag team champions | 14— IRON SHEIK & NIKOLAI VOLKOFF
No. 1 contenders to WWF tag team title |
| 5— OLE & ARN ANDERSON
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title | 10— JOHN TATUM & JACK VICTORY
UWF tag team champions | 15— EDDIE GILBERT & STING
No. 2 contenders to UWF tag team title |

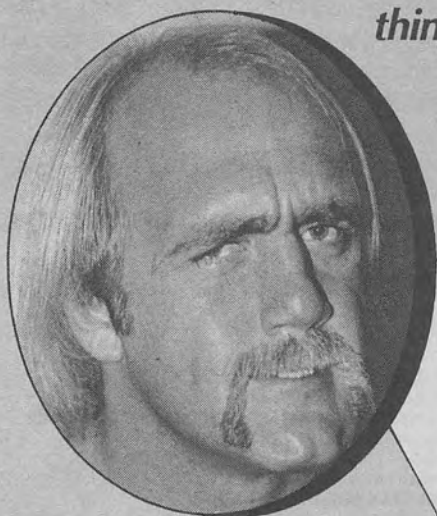
These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended October 29, 1986

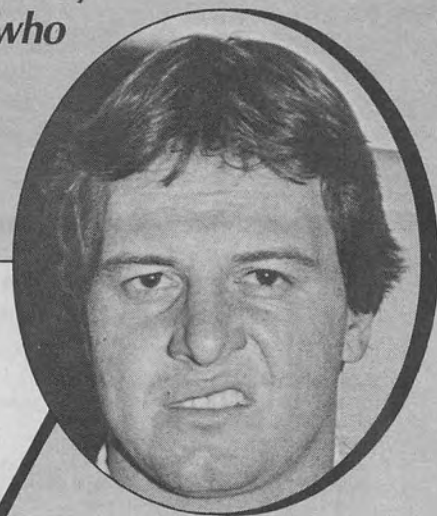
ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

- ALABAMA CHAMPION: WENDELL COOLEY**
(September 15, 1986; tournament final over Jerry Stubbs; Birmingham, AL)
- ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAKASHI ISHIKAWA & MIGHTY INOUE**
(October 31, 1985; from Isamu Teranishi & Animal Hamaguchi; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN**
(July 31, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RIKI CHOSHU & YOSHIKI YATSU**
(February 5, 1986; from Jumbo Tsuruta & Tenryu; Osaka, Japan)
- ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO SAITO**
(July 31, 1986; tournament final over Brad Armstrong; Tokyo)
- ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: GENICHIRO TENRYU**
(April 26, 1986; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Omiya, Japan)
- ALL-PACIFIC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: LELANI KAI**
(August 29, 1986; from Chika; Tokyo, Japan)
- AWA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP: SHERRI MARTEL**
(June 28, 1986; from Candi Divine; Oakland, CA)
- AWA WORLD CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKEL**
(June 29, 1986; awarded by default from Stan Hansen; Denver, CO)
- AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
(May 17, 1986; from Scott Hall & Curt Hennig; Hammond, IN)
- AMERICAS CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Sgt. Slaughter)
- BAHAMAS CHAMPION: THE FALCON**
(September 28, 1986; from Chris Champion; Orlando, FL)
- CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GREAT SAMU**
(June 30, 1986; from Dino Bravo; Montreal, Quebec)
- * **CANADIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SHEIK ALI & RICHARD CHARLAND**
(October 13, 1986; from Dan Kroffat & Tom Zenk; Montreal, Quebec)
- CENTRAL STATES CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Bob Brown)
- CENTRAL STATES TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THUNDERFOOT I & THUNDERFOOT II**
(September 11, 1986; from Joe Lightfoot & Billy Two Eagles; Kansas City, KS)
- * **FLORIDA CHAMPION: BARRY WINDHAM**
(October 8, 1986; victory over Ron Bass to fill title vacancy; Tampa, FL)
- INTERNATIONAL WRESTLING GRAND PRIX CHAMPION: ANTONIO INOKI**
(June 19, 1986; tournament final over Dick Murdoch; Tokyo, Japan)
- IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: OSAMU KIDO & AKIRA MAEDA**
(August 5, 1986; from Kengo Kimura & Tatsumi Fujinami; Tokyo)
- IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NOBUHIKO TAKADA**
(May 19, 1986; from Shiro Koshinaka; Tokyo)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S CHAMPION: DEVIL MASAMI**
(December 12, 1985; tournament final over Dump Matsumoto; Tokyo)
- JAPANESE WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE CRUSH GIRLS**
(March 20, 1986; from Itzuki Yamzaki & Noriyo Tatenos; Osaka, Japan)
- * **MID-AMERICAN CHAMPION: TRACY SMOTHERS**
(October 20, 1986; from Boy Tony; Memphis, TN)
- MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: RONNIE GARVIN**
(September 2, 1986; from Black Bart; Spartanburg, SC)
- MID-SOUTHERN CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER**
(September 8, 1986; from Bam Bam Bigelow; Memphis, TN)
- * **MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BIG BUBBA**
(October 6, 1986; tournament final over Pat Tanaka; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: AKIO SATO & TARZAN GOTO**
(September 1, 1986; from Jeff Jarrett & Pat Tanaka; Memphis, TN)
- MID-SOUTHERN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DIRTY RHODES & DON BASS**
(September 1, 1986; from Hillbilly Elmer & Cousin Jr.; Memphis, TN)
- MISSOURI CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Harley Race)
- NWA JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNY BROWN**
(September 1, 1986; from Steve Regal; Greenville, SC)
- NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS & DUSTY RHODES**
(May 17, 1986; from Ivan & Nikita Koloff & Baron Von Raschke; Baltimore)
- NWA TV CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES**
(September 9, 1986; from Arn Anderson; Columbia, SC)
- NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR**
(August 9, 1986; from Dusty Rhodes; St. Louis)
- NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
(August 16, 1986; from The Midnight Express; Philadelphia)
- PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: RIP OLIVER**
(September 20, 1986; from Cocoa Samoa; Seattle, WA)
- * **PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRADY BOONE & RICK SANTANA**
(October 11, 1986; from Mike Miller & Abughdadien; Portland, OR)
- PWF CHAMPION: RIKI CHOSHU**
(April 5, 1986; from Stan Hansen; Yokohama, Japan)
- PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STAN HANSEN & TED DIBIASE**
(as mandated by PWF wrestling officials)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC CHAMPION: SUPERFLY TUI**
(August 20, 1986; from Lars Anderson; Honolulu, HI)
- POLYNESIAN PACIFIC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: FARMER BOY IPO & LEROY BROWN**
(August 9, 1986; from Mad Max & Super Max; Honolulu, HI)
- SOUTHEAST CHAMPION: EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
(August 4, 1986; from Wendell Cooley; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHEAST CONTINENTAL CHAMPION: KEVIN SULLIVAN**
(September 22, 1986; from Brad Armstrong; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHEAST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BULLET & STEVE ARMSTRONG**
(October 6, 1986; from Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden; Birmingham, AL)
- * **SOUTHEAST U.S. JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ROY WELCH**
(October 6, 1986; from Tim Horner; Birmingham, AL)
- SOUTHERN CHAMPION: LEX LUGAR**
(July 29, 1986; from Masked Superstar; Tampa, FL)
- U.S. CHAMPION: NIKITA KOLOFF**
(August 17, 1986; best-of-seven final over Magnum T.A.; Charlotte, NC)
- (September 28, 1986; unification victory over National heavyweight champion Wahoo McDaniel; Atlanta, GA)
- * **U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS (FLORIDA): THE SHEEPHERDERS**
(October 7, 1986; from The Fabulous Ones; Tampa, FL)
- U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS (WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP): IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV**
(September 28, 1986; tournament final over The Kansas Jayhawks; Atlanta, GA)
- UWF HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TERRY GORDY**
(May 30, 1986; tournament final over Hacksaw Duggan; Houston, TX)
- * **UWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JACK VICTORY & JOHN TATUM**
(October 26, 1986; over The Fantastics; Tulsa, OK)
- UWF TV CHAMPION: BUDDY ROBERTS**
(September 28, 1986; from Terry Taylor; Oklahoma City)
- * **WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: KEVIN VON ERICH**
(October 12, 1986; from Black Bart; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD CLASS SIX-MAN CHAMPIONS: KEVIN, LANCE, & MIKE VON ERICH**
(May 4, 1986; from The Fabulous Freebirds; Irving, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUZZ SAWYER & MATT BORNE**
(September 1, 1986; tournament final over Chris Adams & Lance Von Erich; Ft. Worth, TX)
- * **WORLD CLASS TV CHAMPION: CRUSHER YURKOF**
(October 20, 1986; from Steve Simpson; Ft. Worth, TX)
- WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: BUZZ SAWYER**
(July 4, 1986; from Brian Adisas; Dallas, TX)
- WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: THE FABULOUS MOOLAH**
(November 25, 1985; from Wendi Richter; New York)
- WORLD WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN**
(August 1985; from Desiree Petersen & Velvet McIntyre; Egypt)
- * **WWC JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DON KENT**
(October 26, 1986; from Invader III; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT**
(most recently held by Al Perez)
- WWC NORTH AMERICAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHICKY & RON STARR**
(May 2, 1986; from Invaders I & II; Fagardo, Puerto Rico)
- WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I**
(June 29, 1986; from Eric Embry; San Juan, Puerto Rico)
- * **WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RON & CHICKY STARR**
(October 5, 1986; from The RPMs; Caguas, Puerto Rico)
- WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON**
(September 21, 1986; tournament final over Terry Funk; San Juan, PR)
- WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE**
(February 8, 1986; from Tito Santana; Boston)
- WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN**
(January 23, 1984; from The Iron Sheik; New York)
- WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
(April 7, 1986; from Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake; Rosemont, IL)

All eyes are on the WWF as Hulk Hogan, Roddy Piper, and Paul Orndorff are ready for war. That's for sure. The only thing that remains to be seen is who is going to battle whom



HOGAN



PIPER



ORNDORFF

THE WWF'S HATE TRIANGLE!

IN THE WILD and wacky world that is WWF wrestling, fans know that anything is possible. Absolutely anything. Let's start this crazy saga with a brief chronology.

January 1984: Hulk Hogan wins the WWF title. That same month, Roddy Piper leaves Mid-Atlantic area and comes to the WWF. Shortly after, Piper brings in Paul Orndorff from the Central States area.

Over the next several months, Hogan defends the title several times against Orndorff. Aside from his wrestling duties, Piper advises Orndorff and gets his own television segment, "Piper's Pit," which becomes the most controversial talk show in wrestling.

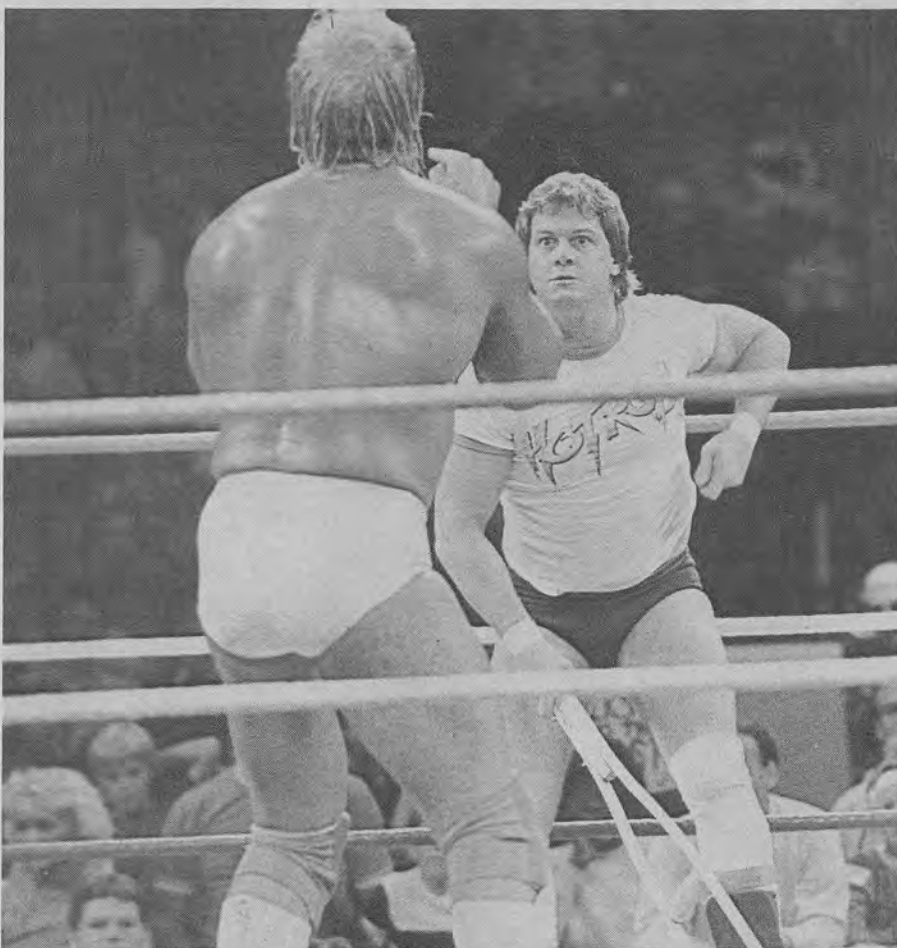
February 1985: In "The War To Settle The Score," Piper has his greatest title match against Hogan. Orndorff tries to interfere, but Mr. T is at ringside to watch Hogan's back.

March 1985: In a ballyhooed tag team match at WrestleMania 1, Hogan and T defeat Piper and Orndorff. Piper blames Orndorff for the loss, and they break up. A feud ensues. Orndorff begins a partnership with Hogan.

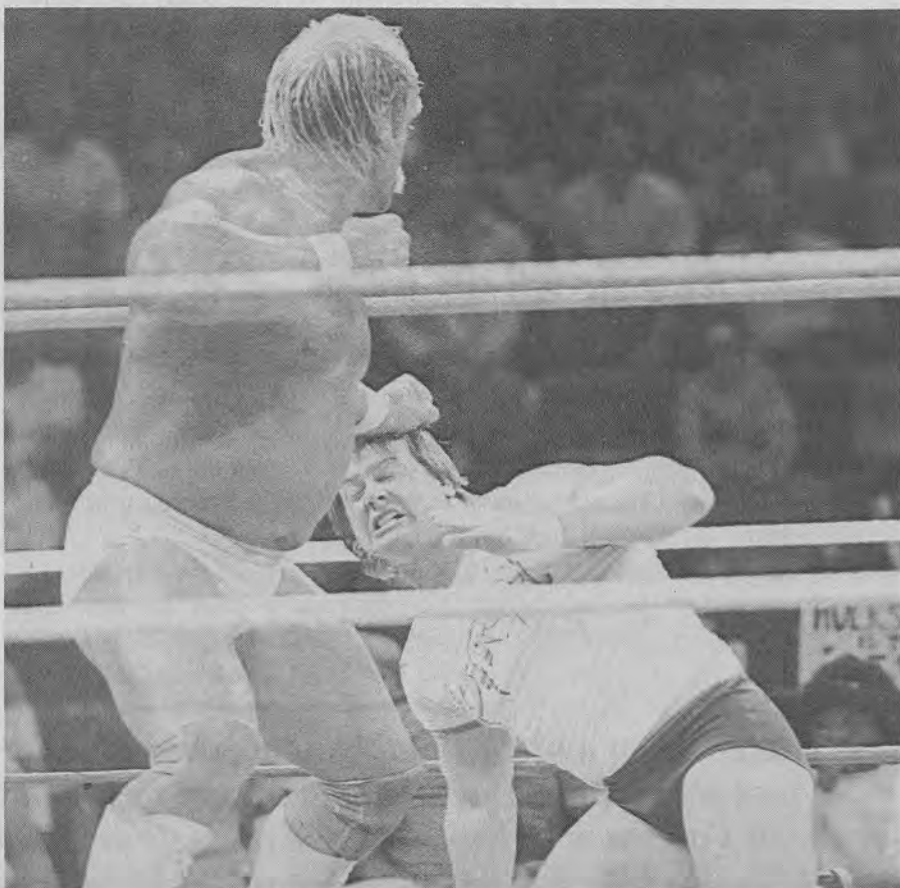
July 1986. Orndorff attacks Hogan after their tag team match against King Kong Bundy and Big John Studd. "Mr. Wonderful" said he turned against the champion because he felt snubbed when The Hulkster refused to take his phone call during a training session. Hogan says there has to be more to it than that. Many believe the incident was masterminded by Bobby Heenan.

Meanwhile, Piper returns to the WWF after filming a movie in Hollywood to find his TV spot taken by Adrian Adonis, who has bought the services of Piper's old bodyguard, Cowboy Bob "Ace" Orton. The Rowdy Scot reclaims his place, but pays the price: He's injured by Adonis, Orton, and Magnificent Muraco, but he ultimately runs Adonis out of the WWF.

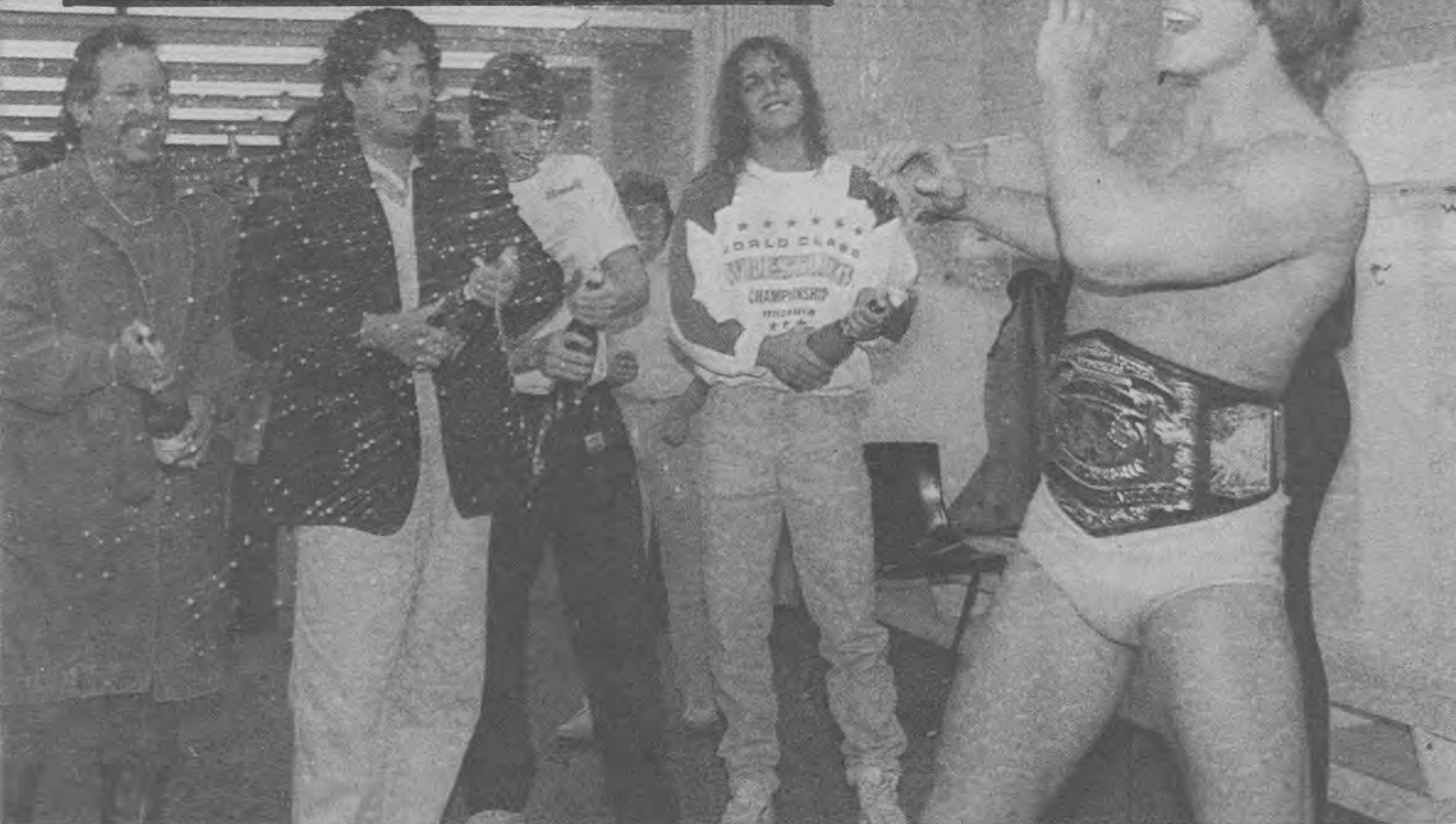
(Continued on page 57)



Hulk Hogan and Roddy Piper are not sure how they feel about each other. The rowdy Scot looks as though he wants to whack Hogan with the crutch (above), and the champion is ready to slug Piper (below). As it turns out, neither man hit the other.



Kevin Von Erich Crowned World Class Champion:



It's party time! Kevin Von Erich gets a champagne shower after winning the World Class title from Black Bart. Joining in the celebration are (from left) Scott Casey, Mark Youngblood, Mike and Chris Von Erich, and Steve Simpson.

TEXAS WRESTLING LIVES AGAIN!

THE VON ERICH scrapbook reads like a horror story, some sick joke inflicted upon a family that never really did anything wrong, just to test its faith, just to see if they can keep on getting knocked down, then getting back on their feet, only to get knocked down again, and not give up totally.

In your wildest dreams, you might be able to envision Fritz Von Erich, father of five, going through the pages, explaining what has happened to a bewildered guest.

Page One: "Here's my son Jack. He was electrocuted when he was eight and died." Page Two: "This is David. He died of inflamed intestines. Acute

interitis the doctors called it." Page Three: "Here's Mike. He had toxic shock syndrome and the doctors gave him 20 minutes to live. He survived, somehow, but he still hasn't come all the way back. I thank God that we still have him." Page Four: "My son Kevin. Shoulder injuries throughout his career. He just can't fight them off."

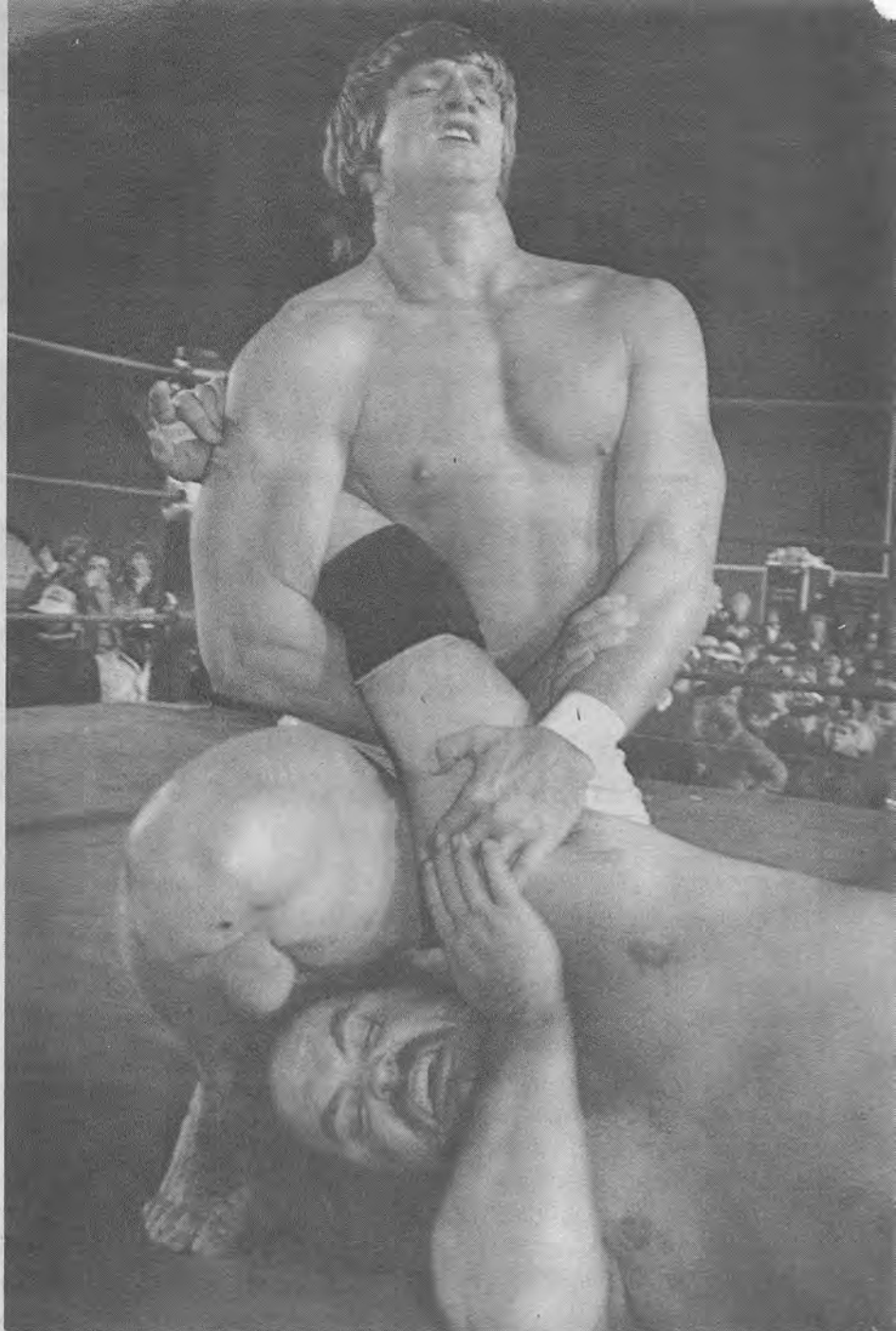
There's been a black cloud hanging over the World Class area for the past six months, threatening the very future of the federation. But Kevin Von Erich's victory over Black Bart for the WCCW title indicates that a resurgence might be taking place

Page Five: "And Kerry. Got into a terrible motorcycle accident and almost died, just last June. Lucky he's still alive. But he may never wrestle again."

What else? What could there be? What more could a father endure? It's been said that there's no greater pain than to watch your children die. But there's more. Plenty more. Fritz Von Erich has watched his children, and he's watched Texas wrestling die a slow death.

It happened suddenly, almost without warning. Gino Hernandez died, then Chris Adams was blinded, then, a slow but steady exodus of wrestlers: The Freebirds, Chris Adams, Rick Rude. Kerry was injured and put out of action. The champion, that's right, the World Class *champion* was Black Bart! Black Bart, for heaven's sake!

Where have all the wrestlers gone? There are just so many times that even the most devout wrestling fan can watch Bruiser Brody vs. Abdullah the Butcher. It was beginning to look like the World Class' decision to secede from the NWA was a big mistake. After all, Ric Flair against Black Bart
(Continued on page 62)



Kevin needed only seven minutes to defeat Bart, who's caught in an armbar (above). Bart pulls Kevin off the mat and warns Kerry—recovering from a motorcycle accident—not to butt in (below). Now that Kevin is the champion, interest in the Texas wrestling scene may reach a new high.



HOTSEAT

RIC FLAIR:

"THERE MAY BE FOUR HORSEMEN, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE RIC FLAIR!"

WHEN THE FOUR Horsemen—Ric Flair, Ole and Arn Anderson, and Tully Blanchard—first came together, their goal was clear: win all the gold. At the time of their inception, Flair was NWA World champion, Ole and Arn were the National tag team champions, and Blanchard had the U.S. title. It was only a matter of time, they all said, before The Horsemen won every belt possible and ruled the NWA.

But the best laid plans of mice and men . . . Flair is still World champion, but the other three are bare-waisted. What happened? Although the fingerpointing hasn't officially started yet, there are indications that Blanchard's so-called administrative director, James J. Dillon, blames Flair for The Horsemen's downfall. He says the champion consistently put his own concerns ahead of the group's.

Although the title count is down, The Horsemen are still wreaking havoc around the NWA. They've broken Dusty Rhodes' leg, Ricky Morton's nose (and his fans' hearts), and Sam Houston's arm, to name a few. Their alliance has upset the balance of power in the World Championship area, but

now outside events are threatening their dominance.

Aside from his problems with The Horsemen, Flair has his hands full with challenges from Dick Murdoch, Ron Garvin, Nikita Koloff, and, as

“

"In this business, there isn't much time for friendship. We all have our own matters to take care of."

”

always, Dusty Rhodes. It is a testament to his ability as a champion that he still holds the belt after this latest series of matches. The man who makes wrestling "go round and round" is at the top of his profession, and shows no signs of letting up.

Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez interviewed Flair after a recent match in

Charlotte, North Carolina, and asked him about the future of The Four Horsemen, his latest challengers, and his association with Baby Doll.

Q: J.J. Dillon, a good friend of yours, said that you're forcing the Andersons and Tully Blanchard to fight your battles for you. Has he talked about this with you?

A: You're the new reporter, aren't you?

Q: Yes, but what . . .

A: Listen here, junior. I don't know where King dug you up from, but you better start doing your homework. My time is valuable, brother. First of all, J.J. is an intelligent man. I don't believe he said that. If he did, it wouldn't matter.

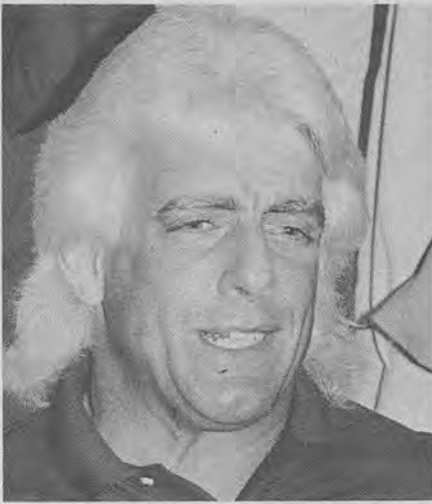
Q: Why wouldn't it matter? Don't you care what he thinks?

A: You have to understand that in this business, there isn't much time for friendship. We all have our own matters to take care of. Anyway, The Four Horsemen is just a concept that . . .

Q: Whoa! The Four Horsemen a concept? I thought you were a team.

A: For a long time, I thought we were, too. But after Ole came back





“
**“I’m the NWA World
 champion, the number one
 man in professional sports
 today. All those other titles
 are just steppingstones.”**
 ”

from his injury, he was a changed man. He worried too much about putting Dusty Rhodes out of wrestling. So the four of us weren’t working together anymore.

Q: You mean you weren’t working as equals?

A: Equals? There’s no way that we’re all equal, dude. Remember, there may be four Horsemen, but there’s only one Ric Flair.

Q: So the whole Four Musketeers thing was just a put-on?

A: C’mon, Andy, it’s obvious. I’m the NWA World champion, the number one man in professional sports today. All those other titles are just steppingstones. You know that.

Q: Yes, I know and you know it, but Ole, Arn, and Tully seemed to believe they held meaningful championships.

A: Oh, sure, they’re meaningful. I held the U.S. belt myself. It makes you the number one contender to my title. But those belts meant a hell of a lot more when I started hanging around with the other Horsemen.

Q: It sounds like you’re demeaning their abilities as champions.



It used to be all for one and one for all for these men: (from left) Ole Anderson, Tully Blanchard, J.J. Dillon, Arn Anderson, and Ric Flair. Flair now says The Four Horsemen are virtually nothing without him.

A: Not in the least. They’re all the finest and toughest wrestlers I’ve ever known. And now they’re more popular than they ever were because of me.

Q: Dillon also said that you wouldn’t give Blanchard a title shot after he lost the U.S. title. Is that true?

A: We’re The Four Horsemen. One for all and all for one (laughs). Tully never once told me he wanted my title. We’re friends.

Q: You just said friendships are basically meaningless.

A: (Flair gets up to leave.) Listen, punk. Be grateful that you’re sittin’ here talkin’ to a real man. Step out of line once more and I’ll toss you out.

Q: It’s my job as a journalist to ask the tough questions.

A: (He sits down.) And it’s my right not to answer them, understand?

Q: Okay, one more question about The Horsemen. Ole is your cousin. You’ve wrestled together for a long time. If you’re the leader of The Four Horsemen, he could be called the elder statesman. The Horsemen have revitalized his career, and he told me he’s determined to keep them together. To him, they’re not a concept, they’re very real. What do you say to him?

A: I respect Ole. He’s been in the business too long to be screwed around with by anybody. He’s smart enough to realize that The Horsemen won’t stay together forever. Remember how devastating the Minnesota Wrecking Crew [Ole and Gene Anderson] was, how ev-



“When they walk that aisle, they’ve got butterflies in their stomachs because they know they’re steppin’ in the ring with a real man.”

”

everybody thought they’d rule for as long as they wanted. Things change. Times change.

Q: How would you rate yourself at this point in your career? Are you in your prime, or is there still room for improvement?

A: Andy, there’s nothing to improve upon. I’m the greatest; it’s that simple. I prefer to spend my spare time doing what only I can do, and that’s stylin’ and profilin’ with my ladies, drinkin’ that fine wine and ridin’ in the back seat of a Lincoln Continental. How can the other Horsemen measure up to that?

Q: Lately, you’ve faced a strong challenge from Dick Murdoch . . .

A: “Captain Redneck,” ha, ha, ha! You call that a challenge? I’ve beaten that fat slug up and down the countryside without even breaking a sweat. I don’t care who you’re talking about: Ronnie Garvin, Dusty Rhodes, Nikita Koloff, or that youngster in Florida, Lex Luger. When they walk that aisle, they’ve got butterflies in their stomachs because they know they’re steppin’ in the ring with a real man and a real champion. I’m

Flair holds Ronnie Garvin against the ropes while Arn Anderson gets his licks in. Although Flair is related to the Andersons, he doesn’t want their association to hinder his own career.

the best, dammit, and everybody knows it.

Q: You toured Japan recently. How would you compare the Japanese style of wrestling to the American style?

A: In Japan, there’s much more emphasis on the scientific aspects, and they’re also more acrobatic. They don’t like to rough it up as much as we do.

Q: I’d like to get back to Lex Luger. Many experts say he’s the future of wrestling because he combines incredible muscularity and power with a good knowledge of wrestling skills that will only get better. I know that in the past you’ve discounted his ability, but he has given you some tough matches. What is your serious opinion on Luger?

A: I honestly believe that in a few years he will be one of the top men in our sport, but right now he doesn’t have what it takes to go all the way. As much as I respect Bob Roop [Luger’s adviser], I think he’s pushed the young man too far

too fast. He wasn’t ready for title matches with a world champion, especially me?

Q: Are there any more matches signed between the two of you?

A: Oh, sure, I’ll wrestle him again. But don’t expect anything to change.

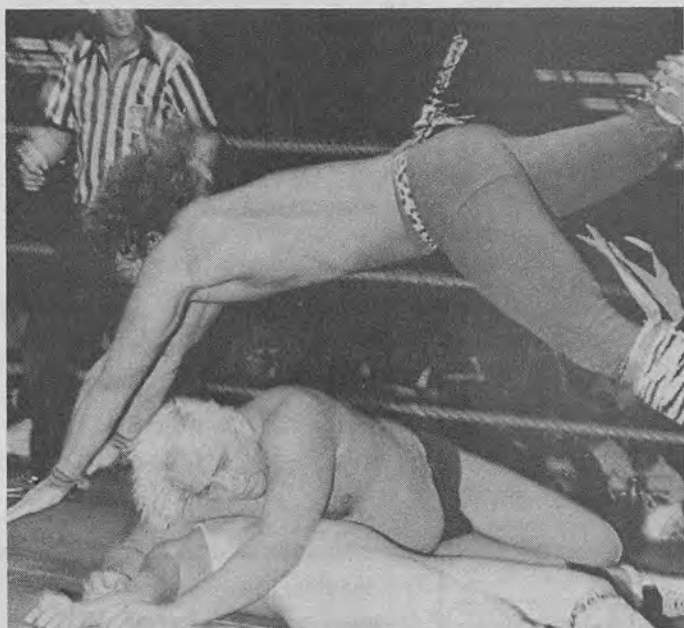
Q: A lot of fans were stunned when Baby Doll left Dusty Rhodes to be at your side. Did you have any idea that she’d do something like that?

A: When you talk about Baby Doll, you’re talking about a very intelligent woman. Dusty Rhodes couldn’t provide her with the lifestyle she was accustomed to, so she bought a ticket to ride on Space Mountain. She knows a championship-caliber athlete when she sees one. We make the perfect team: the blond bomber and the blonde bombshell. I haven’t seen her much recently because she’s managing in the Central States area, where I understand she’s doing an excellent job. She’s quite a lady.

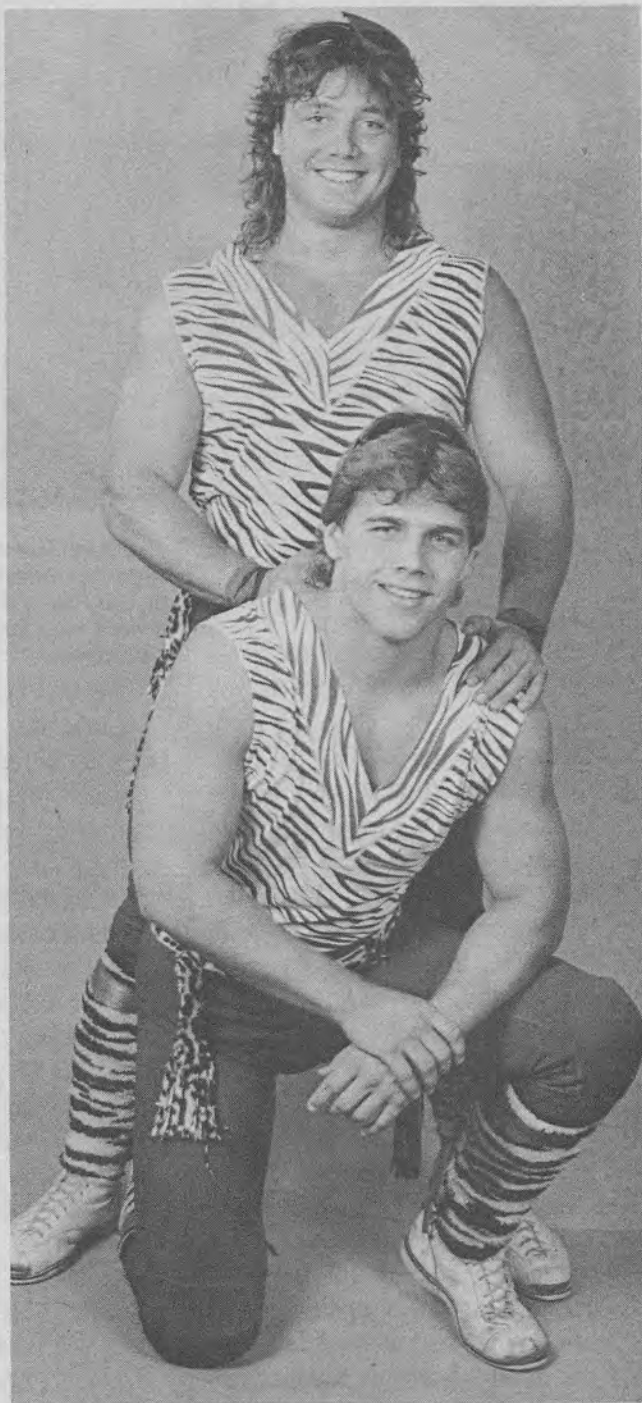
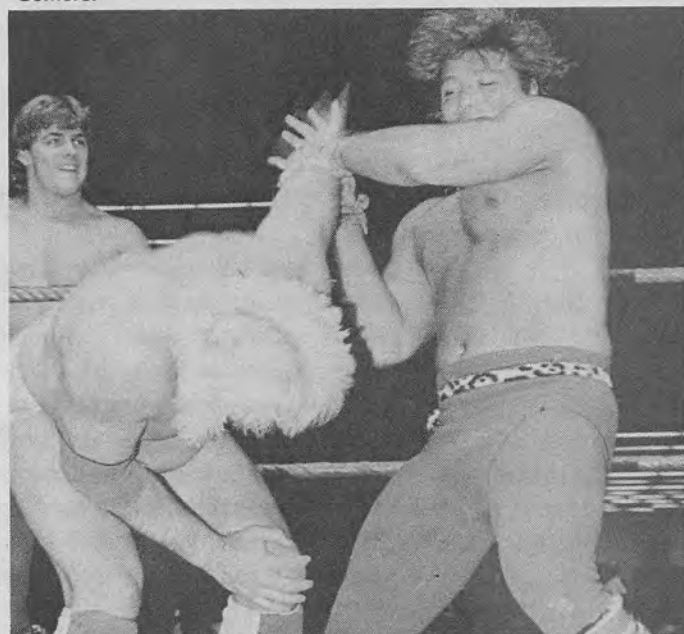
Q: Thanks for your time, champ.

A: No problem. Ric Flair answers all the tough questions. □

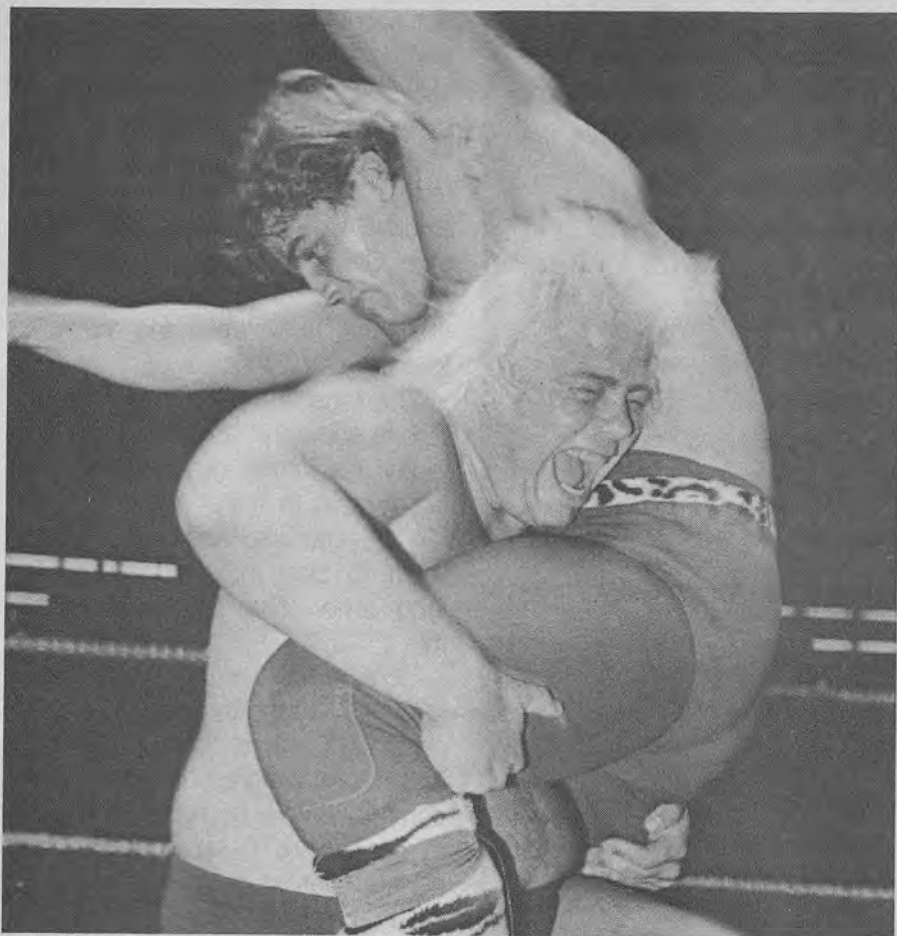
WHY THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS MUST LEAVE THE AWA—NOW!



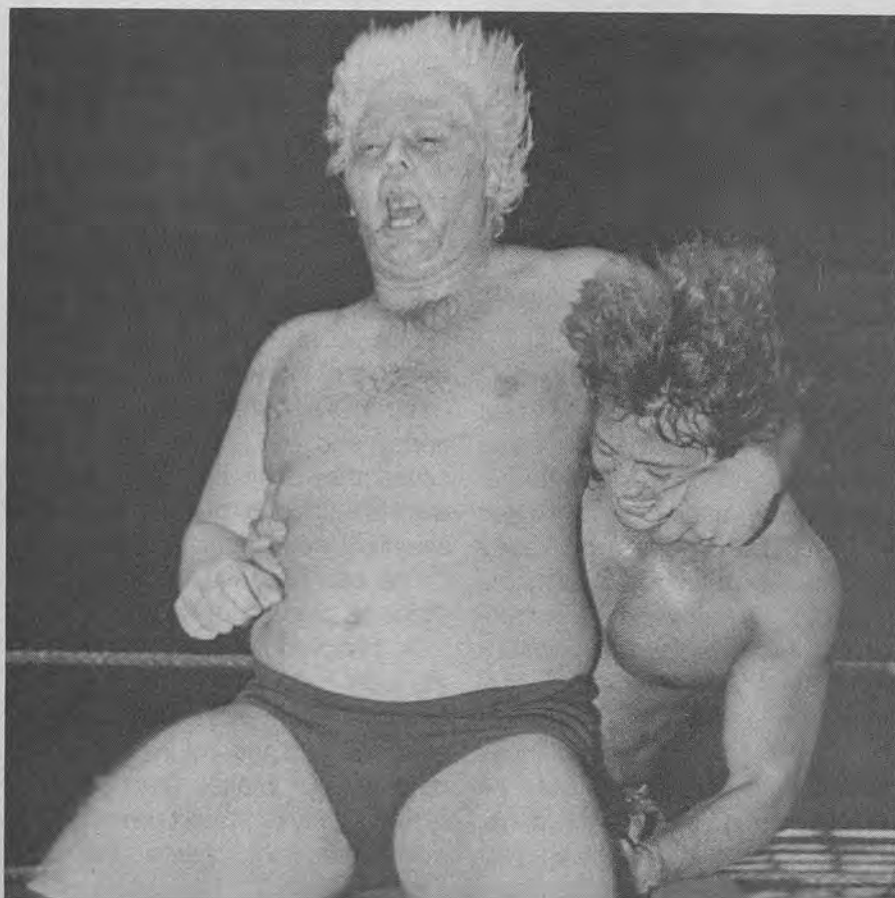
Right: The Midnight Rockers, Marty Jannetty (standing) and Shawn Michaels, are probably the best tag team in the AWA. Above: Buddy Rose tries to protect his manager, Sherri Martel, from Jannetty after she interferes in a match. Below: Jannetty twists the arm of Doug Somers.



They're young, popular, and exciting, but they may not be getting a fair shake in the AWA. It may be time for The Midnight Rockers to wrestle where their talents would be better recognized



Above: Rose gleefully gives Michaels an atomic spinecrusher. Below: Jannetty returns the favor on Rose with a variation of the move. The Rockers have come up just short in their title matches with Rose and Somers.



IT'S WRESTLING NIGHT in St. Paul, Minnesota, and if you're a girl between the ages of 10 and 15, there's only one place to be: the Civic Center. For these girls, wrestling means only one thing: The Midnight Rockers.

"Ooh, they're so dreamy!" said Kim, a 14-year-old who came with her older sister. "Marty is so handsome and Shawn is so cute! I see them whenever I can. They're gonna be the greatest ever!"

Kim is surrounded by hundreds of likeminded young ladies. But they are not the only ones enjoying themselves. Ask the boys.

"Man, those sunglasses are so cool," said 15-year-old Robbie. "And those outfits are hot. The Rockers are gonna rule, man. No doubt!"

These teenagers are excited for a lot of good reasons. Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels are a very good-looking and talented team who have emerged from the shadows of The Rock 'n' Roll Express and The Midnight Express to become legitimate world title contenders. Despite their relatively small size (their combined weight is 461 pounds), The Rockers have proved they belong in the ring. But they don't belong in the AWA. They need to move on to an area that will help them further their considerable skills.

Regardless of what you think of the AWA as a federation, one thing is certain: it is not a hotbed of tag team competition. The champions, Playboy Buddy Rose and Doug Somers, whom the Rockers are about to wrestle, won their belts by countout. Yes, by *countout*! Apparently, the AWA changed its title-match stipulations without notifying anyone. Or 'at least for one night they did.

Rose and Somers' title defenses against the Rockers have been close, bloody affairs, with Rose and Somers usually getting

themselves disqualified because of the outside interference of their manager, Sherri Martel. One match in Las Vegas was particularly brutal. After the bell ended the match, the four men took the action out onto the floor, turning a championship bout into a brawl. The battle scars—physical and emotional—remain deep today.

"I'll tell ya," Jannetty said in the Civic Center dressing room before this evening's bout, "those matches were the worst I've ever been in. I was hurtin' bad for three weeks afterward. Shawn and I aren't gonna forget what Rose and Somers did to us. And if Sherri Martel dares to interfere again, we might just give her a few shots. We don't care if she does call herself a woman."

Michaels was even more upset. "You know, sometimes I wonder how Scott Hall and Curt Hennig lost the titles to those bozos," he said. "Of course, cheating was the only way they could win. If the AWA officials had any backbone, we'd wouldn't have to put up with a lot of this garbage."

Such harsh statements are certainly uncharacteristic of the Rockers. Some view it as a sign that they are not content in the AWA, though they won't acknowledge that directly. "We like wrestling here," Michaels said, "but we don't like referees who are afraid to disqualify guys who blatantly break the rules. We just looking for fair play, that's all."

They should also be looking for some top competition. The other major tag teams in the AWA do not offer what Michaels and Jannetty need to push their skills to new limits. Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie's men—Boris Zukhov, Nord the Barbarian, and Ali Khan—are tough, but the Sheik really only wants them to hurt people, not to win. Greg Gagne and Jimmy Snuka would probably be a great team if they wrestled together more often. The team of



Above: With great effort, Jannetty slams the Playboy down to the canvas. Below: Marty quickly follows up with an armbar. Soon, the Rockers will have to decide whether or not they want to stay in the AWA.



Scott Hall and Curt Hennig split up shortly after losing the title. Hennig was so upset about losing that he turned on his old friend, Greg Gagne, after they lost a tag match to The Sheik's Army. Larry Zbyszko has teamed up with the Ninja Go, but Zbyszko is so obsessed with Nick Bockwinkel's World title that he doesn't concentrate on his tag team matches. The "New Living Legend" has taunted the Rockers, but he hasn't done much to back it up.

Serious wrestling observers recognize the Rockers as the num-

ber one team in the AWA, despite their inability to win the championship. "I've watched wrestling in this area for 30 years, and The Midnight Rockers are the best team to come along since Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens," said George Tomkins of Mound, Minnesota. "The kids love 'em, the fans love 'em, and heck, I love 'em, too."

The fans' affection is important, but it shouldn't be the deciding factor in whether or not the Rockers remain in the AWA. It is rare for a championship-caliber tag team to stay in one area for a long time. The Rockers realize this.

"We know we can't stay here forever," Jannetty said. "Other promoters have called. Shawn and I will weigh our offers very carefully. We'll go when we want to go, we won't let ourselves be pushed out or anything."

Back at the Civic Center, the match is over. The Rockers have wrestled Rose and Somers to a double-disqualification, so there will be no celebrating tonight. The young fans are disappointed, but not disheartened. "They're the best; they proved it tonight," Kim says afterward. "As usual, the doughboy Rose cheated. He knows he can't win fair and square, so he cheats."

Kim is asked how she would feel if the Rockers left the AWA. "You know," she replies, "I'd be happy and sad. I'd be happy because they'd be doing what they want to do and proving to more wrestlers how great they are. But I'd be sad because I couldn't see them in person anymore."

A hundred different teams in the past have faced The Midnight Rockers' dilemma, and a hundred others will in the future. It's their decision to make and nobody else's. They're smart enough to make the right choice. But will they? □

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

ONE ON ONE



"You're gonna be a brokenhearted man when Missy [Hyatt] turns her back on you. That is, if you have a heart."

—John Tatum

JOHN TATUM AND Eddie Gilbert have a problem. Her name is Missy Hyatt and beautiful women have been known to make men act like fools. Elizabeth Taylor caused dozens of men to lie in her wake, Marilyn Monroe seduced—and reduced—a generation of males, and Joan Collins, in her Alexis character, has made a fortune out of using men for her personal gain.

But this isn't the movies. It's real life, with real people and real emotions at stake. The men involved, Tatum and Gilbert, are not the nicest guys in the world and have more than their share of enemies, but that doesn't take away from the fact that they are human beings. Their love for Missy appears genuine, straight from the heart.

Is it their fault that their few displays of true, human emotion are reserved for a woman who plainly doesn't deserve it?

Because let's face it: Missy Hyatt is beautiful, she's gorgeous, she's voluptuous, and certainly one of the most desirable women on earth, but she's certainly not the kind of girl you'd want to bring home to Mom. She appears to care only for herself and is too interested in material things to be concerned about Tatum's and Gilbert's feelings of romantic love.

She's already done considerable damage. Tatum and Gilbert were once good friends, but now they are bitter enemies, and Missy is the only reason. One week on television, Gilbert and Tatum came to words, and then to fists, forcing Hyatt to make a decision. She walked off with

Tatum.

A few weeks later, Gilbert and Tatum had another encounter. This time, Gilbert gave Missy flowers, which set off Tatum. After Gilbert climbed into the ring, he was jumped by Tatum and Jack Victory. Tatum then tossed Missy into the corner and tore up her roses. Then Sting and Rick Steiner came on to rescue Gilbert, threw Victory over the ropes, and held Tatum while Eddie delivered a series of punishing blows. Gilbert then turned to Missy and told her to hit Tatum.

She complied and walked off with Gilbert.

They say that all is fair in love and war. What we have here is both love and war. Gilbert and Tatum were brought together by *Inside Wrestling* for one of the most heated, jealous, and scornful conversations we have ever heard. Sadly, it appears as if both Gilbert and Tatum are innocent. In this case, the guilty party is a woman.

EDDIE GILBERT:

How ya doing, Johnny? I'm surprised you're even willing to talk to the man who took your girl from right under your nose. How did it feel to be in front of all those people when Missy finally dumped your butt? It had *me* smiling for days.

JOHN TATUM:

You can smile now, Gilbert, but just you wait. You're gonna be a brokenhearted man when Missy turns her back on you. That is, if you have a heart.

EG: You're a funny guy, John. I never realized you had such a sense of humor. I'm amazed that a woman like Missy with such refined taste in men would leave a guy with such a brilliant personality. You hear that noise, Tatum? That's my heart beating and it hasn't skipped a

N ONE



"Missy was just scraping the bottom of the barrel when she hung out with you. The thought repulses me."

—Eddie Gilbert

beat. Your heart's been torn out, boy, ripped to shreds, and it ain't never recovering.

JT: You can laugh now, Gilbert, but I guarantee that you'll be crying later. Once Missy realizes what kind of man she left, once she realizes that she can never find in any other man what she found in me, she'll be back in no time. I'm talking about a real man, Gilbert, not a poor excuse for a man like you. If Steiner and Sting didn't run into that ring, you were dead meat.

EG: Say whatever makes you feel better, Johnny, but even if Rick and Sting didn't come into the ring, Missy was gone. She was in the palm of my hands. She's never had a man bring her chocolates and flowers like I did, never had a man treat her like the real lady she is. Missy was just scraping the bottom of the

barrel when she hung out with you. The thought repulses me.

JT: You wouldn't know class if it was staring you in the face, Gilbert. You have no idea what Missy wants and needs, but I do. You're a fad, Gilbert, a cheap fad, and your time is running out fast. I know what kind of man you are. I thought you were my friend, but you're nothing but a backstabber.

EG: All is fair, my man, all is fair. Can I help it if Missy just knew class when she saw it. The moment she laid eyes on me, I could tell that she was in love. Tatum, you just have no idea. Your time was running out the second she met me.

JT: It's a business deal, Gilbert, and you're too stupid to realize it. I'm love. You're just a bottom line.

EG: That's right, Tatum, I'm the bottom line and the bottom line is that

she's with me.

JT: Don't you ever interrupt me again, Gilbert. I've had my fill of you.

EG: And there's plenty more to come, so don't get too tired of me now!

JT: *(Shouting)* Listen to me! That girl is mine! She's been with me for a long time. We're an item, we're together, Gilbert, and you just can't break that bind. You just managed to get Missy into a situation where she was a little nervous and didn't know how to react. She was scared. She didn't know what you'd do if she didn't hit me. Who knows how a wild man is going to react?

EG: You're hilarious, Tatum. You're convinced that Missy still loves you. Well, go ahead with your delusions. Think whatever you want. You can sit there for the rest of your life waiting for her to come back, but it's not happening. Let me put this in black and white for you, man. In your entire career, you've done nothing, absolutely nothing. I may not have the tag team belts anymore, but me and Sting had them and we're getting them back. Missy knows that. She sees that I'm always going to be a success. You're just a dead end street, Tatum, and anybody with two eyes and a brain can see that.

JT: This sickens me, Gilbert. You don't deserve her.

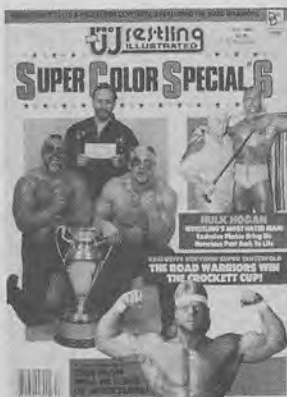
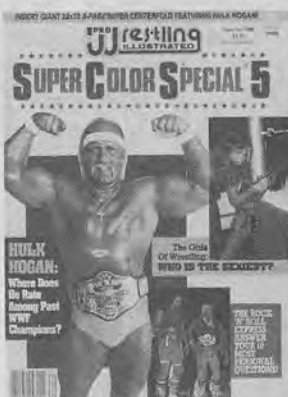
EG: I may not deserve her, John, but at least I have her. There's something we both know, and that's that nobody deserves her. She's beautiful, rich, smart, classy, and a great . . .

JT: Now watch it, Gilbert.

EG: You are naive, Tatum. Whaddya think we do? Play chess? No wonder she left you. You're a little boy, a teenager. You really have no idea how to treat a woman. Well, Tatum, before you try to get her back and end up embarrassing yourself, let me make a friendly suggestion. Grow up. Become a man.

JT: That's it, Gilbert. I've heard enough of your insults. I can't believe a woman like Missy would even look at you. I'll see you in the ring and then we'll see who's the better man. But you'd better watch out. I've got a score to settle and I'm not giving up easily. □

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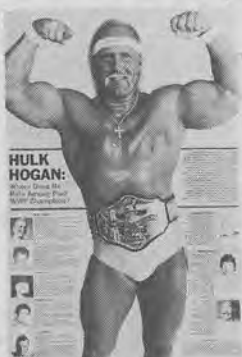
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 6)

Warriors and Dusty Rhodes put The Four Horsemen in the glue factory where they belong.

DENNIS CAUDLE
Mocksville, NC

WHERE'S THE SARGE?

Why doesn't Sgt. Slaughter wrestle in the AWA anymore? Was it because they wouldn't give him a shot at the World title? I really miss seeing the Sarge wrestle; I thought he was great. But we just don't see him anymore.

I am sick of Col. DeBeers and his



Sgt. Slaughter, surrounded by his fans, vacated his Americas title and went to the NWF. John Spada wishes the Sarge was back in the AWA sticking up for the American way.

lousy political views. The only one who could put this lowlife in his place would be the great Sgt. Slaughter of the United States of America!

JOHN SPADA
Everett, MA

WARRIORS STILL TOUGH

I dare anyone to walk up to The Road Warriors and find out if they lost that killer instinct. I will agree that it seems that The Road Warriors are holding back. The Road Warriors are too great and Precious Paul is too smart. These three men can have whatever they want, whenever they want it, and I am sure they have good reason

to hold back for a while, like the calm before a very bad storm.

No one can make me believe The Road Warriors got soft, 'cause IF they did, I'd walk up to them myself and make that so-called killer instinct come back. The Road Warriors will not ever let that happen. They are my number one tag team. In fact, all three are the best in the world.

JOANNE WARD
Greenfield, WI

VERY STRANGE INDEED

The WWF is a very strange place. They have taken many of their best wrestlers and undermined their ability to the point where they're almost a bunch of nobodies. Wrestlers who have a promising future before coming to the WWF now languish in the preliminary ranks without much hope of advancement.

What's the sense in signing all of this top talent if they don't let the guys utilize their skills to the fullest? Actually, I have to give the WWF credit for one thing: They have probably the most impressive roster in the sport and they manage to make their TV shows incredibly boring. Watching Big John Studd annihilate Jim Powers isn't very exciting.

That's why I like the NWA the most. The NWA lets its wrestlers live up to their highest potential, while the WWF is content to let many of its stars sit in limbo. The NWA has its biggest stars on every week.

If men like Paul Orndorff, Pedro Morales, and many others hope to revive their careers, they should leave the WWF and go to the NWA where their talents will be appreciated.

NICOLE ROBITAILLE
Toronto, ONT

BABY DOLL IS A LOSER

I've just finished reading your interview with Baby Doll ("Hotseat," December 1986. Where does Ms. Roberts get off calling Dusty Rhodes a loser?

If it weren't for Baby Doll, Dusty would have been champion long ago. I guess she doesn't see how much Dusty
(Continued on page 50)

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 49)

helped her in her fight against Jim Cornette and The Midnight Express. This only proves how far Dusty will go to help out a friend, if indeed that's what she was.

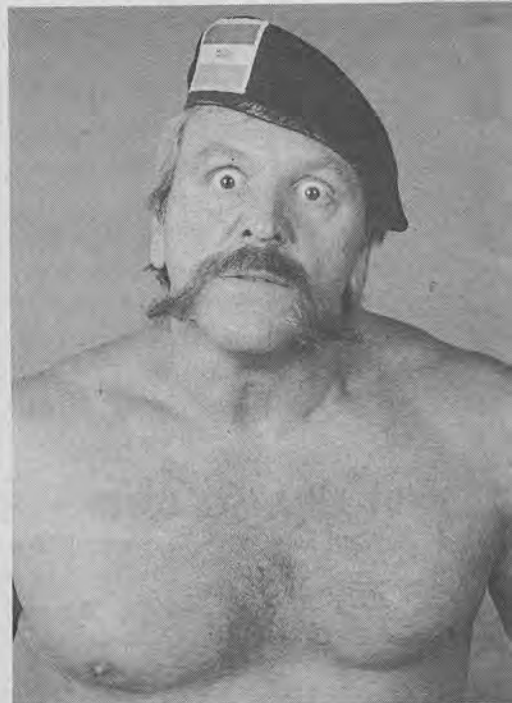
Baby Doll is probably regretting her decision to join up with The Nature Boy. He used her for a couple of weeks and then sent her on her way. She needs to grow up and see the error of her ways.

And if she really feels a strong hate for Jim Cornette, and I quote from your interview, "I'd still slug that wimp if I saw him face to face," why did he say she was redecorating his mother's home? Baby Doll, come to your senses. All we feel for you now is pity.

RHONDA JACKSON
Fayetteville, NC

DeBEERS MUST BE STOPPED

Not only as a white man, but as a free-thinking individual who respects other people's rights, I am absolutely embarrassed and outraged by Col. DeBeers ("Scott Hall Takes Aim At Col. DeBeers: The Big Man's Biggest Test Yet," December 1986). All of the



Col. DeBeers' political antics are an embarrassment to democratic people of all races, writes Jack Wilson.

problems of this world could be solved if people like DeBeers didn't spew out such hatred about other people.

Hearing and seeing a man like DeBeers really drives home the horror of the South Africa situation. They will stop short of nothing to keep the black people under control and deny them their rights. I couldn't believe it when DeBeers said: "If violence is what it takes to rid my city of these horrible creatures, then violence is the answer. Because, as you can see, if these blacks are given free reign to do as they please, society will absolutely disintegrate."

I hope and pray that Scott Hall is able to put down this threat to our very way of life. Who knows? If the South Africans are able to persecute the blacks in this way, what's to stop a similar situation from happening in our great country? And who's to say that white people won't be the victims next time? Think about it.

JACK WILSON
Newark, NJ ☐

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

"STEPPINGSTONE TO NWA TITLE SHOTS" because holders of the Missouri title traditionally received the most title opportunities. And the more chances one has to win the title, the better his chances are of winning the title. (Just ask Dusty Rhodes.) People would travel from all over the country just to get a shot at the Missouri title, hoping not only for the chance to eventually wrestle for the Big One, but to also get the media attention that the number two title would bring.

"Winning that belt meant so much to my career," says Bob Backlund, who won the title from Race a decade ago. "More than the steppingstone theory, it gave me the confidence to know that I can go as far in this sport as I wanted to. When you win the Missouri title, you're joining a pretty elite club."

Unfortunately, the club is closed to new members at the present time. After Race went to the WWF, there was no desire on anyone's part to fill the void. The Central States area was in a state of transition at the time. Seeing a decline in attendance, the NWA Board of Governors decided to phase out some of the wrestlers who had worn out their welcome in the area and freshen the region with an influx of World Championship area stars. And the result is that the Missouri title has been lost in the shuffle.

NWA President Bob Geigel, based in Kansas City, Missouri, is well aware of the history of the Missouri title and its traditional importance to the sport. He says the NWA will fill the title only under the proper circumstances. "I have too much respect for that title as a wrestling institution to fill it just for the sake of filling it," he said. "We're going to wait for the situation to settle a bit in that territory before we run any kind of tournament."

Geigel, though, admits that there has been pressure from the media, fans, and wrestlers to act quickly. "I always check the 'Roll Call' to see if



Jack Brisco proudly displays the Missouri title he won in 1981 after becoming NWA World champion. The now-dormant title has traditionally been a steppingstone to NWA title shots.

they filled the title yet," says Backlund, who has retired from wrestling and will only come back if he is granted a shot at Hulk Hogan. "It bothers me to see that title fade away. It's like the end of an era. It's sad."

But all hope is not lost. The title began with Harley Race, but I don't see it ending with him. St. Louis is a strong wrestling city. The WWF has done extremely well there, but not consistently. St. Louis is an NWA city, but it needs the proper talent in order to create excitement and draw crowds. Jim Crockett has sent in a shot of adrenaline, and hopefully that will do the trick.

If not, maybe Geigel is right. It would be better to see the Missouri title fade away graciously than see it humiliated by inferior titleholders. It would be like a great former champion hanging on to a glorious past, refusing to quit, and tarnishing the greatness he worked so hard to achieve. There is nothing sadder.

Only if the NWA thrives again in the Central States area will the Missouri title regain the glories of its past. Here's to wishful thinking. □

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January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.



DECEMBER 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

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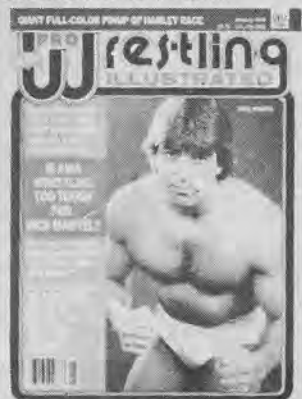
July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

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October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

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December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



JANUARY 1984

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

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May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A. Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. **Barry Windham**, Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

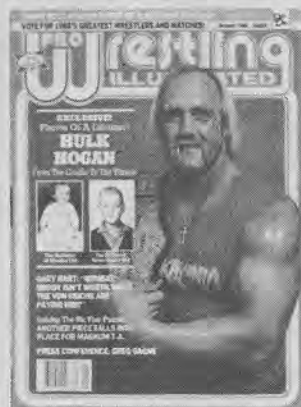
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April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.



JANUARY 1986

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

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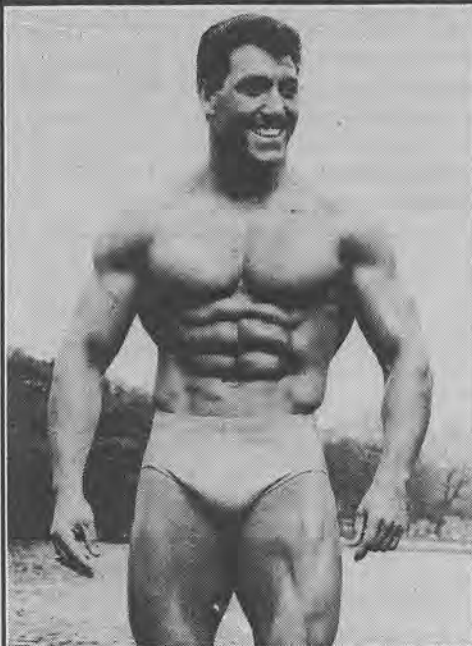
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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Then-WWF champion Pedro Morales chokes King Curtis. That was the matchup Ellner saw when his friends, the Taylors, took him to his first wrestling card at the Philadelphia Spectrum.

the war whoop of Chief Jay Strongbow (I had a long way to go philosophically) and went home determined to start a fan club for the stomping Indian.

As the years wore on and John Taylor Jr. courted trouble faster than Roddy Piper, his father and I would often meet at the matches and discuss the course of world events, the relative merits of Frank Rizzo (he had none), the condition of the NWA, and... his son John. Without ever being solicitous, or betraying my friendship with JT, I informed him of the latest transgression his son was involved in. "My son the rulebreaker," John Sr. would quip and turn his attention to the ring.

The Taylor home, a rambling double-A frame, is not, as I expected, diffused in tragedy and tears. Like many immigrant Irish families, the Taylors had sunk community roots as deep as their beloved Dublin potatoes. At least 80 relatives are here from all parts of the country. The number of friends is double that.

The house is consumed by laughter. Beer, the Irish panacea, flows freely. "We're here to celebrate his life, not

mourn his death," a Taylor from Wisconsin tells me, handing me a Budweiser.

The ring that John Taylor built out of scrap iron and styrofoam 20 years before, bustles with activity. Joe Frazier fought in this ring, as did Dusty Rhodes and Ivan Koloff. When John Taylor headed the Police Athletic League, it sizzled. On this day, Jersey State Champion Awesome Andy Teel has wrapped the villainous Savage Sean McGarrigle into a figure-four leglock. McGarrigle, on the verge of submitting, is rescued by his brother, Demolition Danny, who joins the fray and knocks Teel off. Chaos erupts until chief referee, Hectic Helen Taylor, rings the dinner bell.

"The feud was over," JT confides to me at dinner, and I smile. In the past year, JT had crashed his father's Cutlass, sunk his Crisscraft, and lost two of the three jobs he tried halfheartedly to hold. Relations between Jr. and Sr. were understandably strained. Finally a bartending job at a popular restaurant had curbed JT's excesses, and there was this girl, Sandy, who both Helen and John adored.

"A real rulebreaker," JT winked. "She loves Stan Hansen."

I thought of another wrestling family, also of Irish ancestry, with a Junior and Senior at the helm. I held the thought that no table of Vince McMahon's could ever possess the love and devotion that this one does. But then, on this day, Vince McMahon was not worth even a passing thought.

I asked JT if he wanted to catch a match with me next Tuesday in Connecticut. "Can't," he said. "Sandy's sisters are coming into town. We have tickets for the Spectrum. Besides I have a shift on Tuesday that I can't miss."

I paused for a second. It was remarkable how wrestling spun through the lives of so many of my friends. I realized how fortunate I was to have this job.

"Your pop would be proud of you T," I called after him. But he didn't hear me. He was too busy deflecting a sneak-attack by the McGarrigle brothers. □

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(Continued from page 20)

about what happens to other people?

Just show me those big blue eyes, that long blonde hair, that face, that mouth, that body...

And tell me, why *didn't* they put a shower in this building?

Senior Editor Bill Apter spent three days in Tulsa, Oklahoma, about a month ago and I spent the better part of a week hoping, praying, that something drastic would happen, maybe Bill losing his remaining hairs or his mother coming into town for a shopping trip, that would make him cancel the trip.

Then, maybe I could go to Oklahoma and spend 72 heavenly hours ogling Missy and convincing her that Tatum and Gilbert just aren't good enough for her. Alas, Bill does go to Oklahoma, and on the second day there gets to spend an hour shooting Missy in a dunk tank at WrestleFest.

Imagine, if you can, Missy Hyatt in a wet T-shirt. The thought absolutely boggles the mind. He saw her, talked to her, photographed her. The works. Bill is married, I'm not. The injustice.

Associate Editor Craig Peters has this picture above his desk of himself and Missy. It's right next to this incredible shot of Linda Dallas going for an early morning swim, but we'll get to Linda in another column. Anyway, Craig (who, I should add, *is* married) has his arms around Missy and this glow of pleasure is emanating from his face. There's something wrong here. Craig's married, I'm not, and he gets to meet Missy. The injustice.

I still don't think Craig has gotten over meeting Missy. Usually, I get to monitor the *Superstars Of Wrestling* tape, but I'm under strict orders from Craig that when Missy comes on, he's to be told.

Craig currently holds the world record for a 30-foot desk-to-viewing room dash. But I think he does it more to watch my always amusing reaction to Missy than to see this blonde goddess.

Women like Missy Hyatt are bad for the soul. I know it because I've seen it. You get entranced by the look in their eyes, overcome by the sexual power they have over you, and then it's too late. Their personality, their faults, become secondary when, in reality, those things should come first.

I say to myself: Dave, she's not going to be beautiful forever. One day, she'll be old, wrinkled and ragged, but the personality will still be the same. You see how she is with Gilbert and Tatum. That's the way she really is. The appearance is only window dressing.

But, oh, what window dressing! I could shop forever!

We gets lots of letters here at *Inside Wrestling* and our sister magazines and many of those letters come with photographs. The question I have is: why? Wrestling fans truly amaze me. Their devotion to the sport and the wrestlers is incredible and, indeed, admirable. As a die-hard supporter of my favorite teams, I can associate with their feelings.

But I can't understand why so many fans insist on sending us their pictures. We want to know what you think about wrestling, but we really don't care what you look like. Many girls sends us their photos, hoping that we'll show them to the wrestlers, but let's get one thing straight: Wrestlers don't work in this office, journalists do. We have better things to do than distribute photos of fans to the wrestlers.

So keep the lens cap on those cameras. Bag that face. You're making fools of yourselves. □

HATE TRIANGLE

(Continued from page 35)



Lately, Hogan and Orndorff have been feuding all across the continent. Piper has also teamed up with Hogan in tag matches. To understand what these three hard-nosed competitors have been through, it is necessary to examine three different relationships separately. Listed after each wrestler will be their status with the fans.

● Hogan (fan favorite) and Piper (rulebreaker/fan favorite). The champion pretty much ignored Piper until early 1985, when he took it upon himself to defend the rock 'n' wrestling connection against Piper's onslaught. One would have thought their hatred for each other would last a lifetime, but their recent teaming up seems to disprove this. However, they are definitely not friends. Both have said they still don't trust each other.

● Hogan and Orndorff (rulebreaker-fan favorite-rulebreaker). Since Orndorff entered the WWF, he has had many title matches against the champion. But from the summer of 1985 through this past summer, they were supposedly friends, training together constantly, and sharing ring secrets. After the double-cross, their feud increased in intensity tenfold, and it shows no signs of

Since 1984, Hogan and Paul Orndorff have had several title matches, but the viciousness of the feud has increased dramatically since Orndorff double-crossed the champion on national TV. At a match on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, Orndorff readies Hogan for the piledriver (above left), but the champion counters with a back bodydrop (above right). Their war has been waged all across North America.

letting up.

● Piper and Orndorff. While they've changed, they have despised each other since the days after *WrestleMania 1*. First, Orndorff was the fan favorite and Piper the hated one. Now it's vice versa. There have been no singles matches yet because Orndorff's been busy with Hogan. Many consider Orndorff the odds-on favorite to become the next WWF champion.

This three-way feud is quite unique in wrestling and even more unusual in the WWF, an organization that rarely matches rulebreakers against rulebreakers and fan favorites against fan favorites. It can be said that Orndorff is the only one of the three who really hates the other two; Hogan and Piper have mixed feelings about one another. If they ever team up in earnest, they'd be an incredible combination. And while they would

(Continued on page 58)

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HATE TRIANGLE

(Continued from page 57)

probably not be interested in wrestling The British Bulldogs, there are several teams that they would like to get a piece of.

What do the other stars in the WWF feel about the situation? They all have an opinion, though none will speak on the record. Some wrestlers, such as Bob Orton and Magnificent Muraco, are being drawn into a Bermuda Triangle of sorts. Orton and Muraco, however, aren't noted for their intelligence, so that's no surprise. Bundy has given aid and comfort to Orndorff, a fellow member of the Heenan family.

Some other superstars of the federation—like Randy Savage and Jake Roberts—have too much at stake to take an active part in the feud. Savage, though he's Intercontinental champion, is still after Hogan's belt. Roberts hosts his own TV segment, "The Snake Pit," and is reportedly trying to keep a low profile with Piper after what Roddy did to Adrian Adonis. These men will probably get involved as little as possible.

At this point, several things seem fairly certain. Hogan will be a fan favorite for a long time to come and Orndorff is solidly entrenched in the Heenan camp. Piper is another matter. His violent mood swings put everyone—"friends" and foes alike—on the defensive. Right before he destroyed Adonis' "Flower Shop" on television, this so-called fan favorite called the Adorable One, Orton, and Muraco "S.O.B.s." and *did not* use the abbreviation. That upset many fans, such as Steve Madison of Detroit, the father of two young children.

"If Piper is supposed to be a hero now," he said. "What kind of an example is he setting for kids with remarks like that?"

Piper, for his part, hasn't returned the fans' affection. At least he's not a hypocrite. ☐

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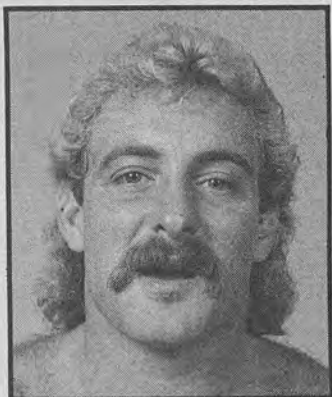
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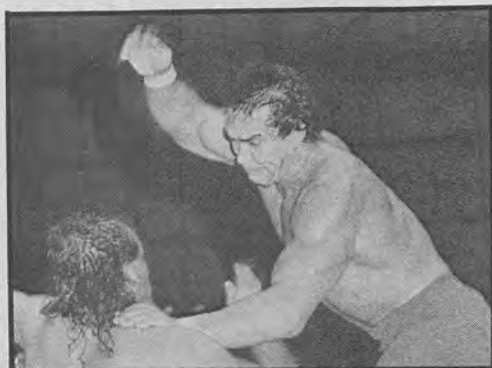
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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.
July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.
October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Awards Poll
April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.
June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
August 1981/Freebirds, Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.
September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

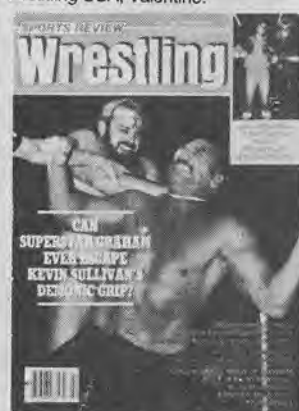


MARCH 1982

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.
November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humerdink.
January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
July 1983/Valiant-Humerdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.
December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.



FEBRUARY 1985

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.

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KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from page 37)



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Kevin's win took place at The Cotton Bowl in Dallas on Columbus Day and was by far the most significant
(Continued on page 64)

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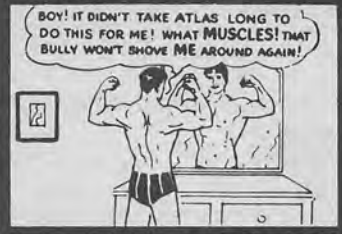


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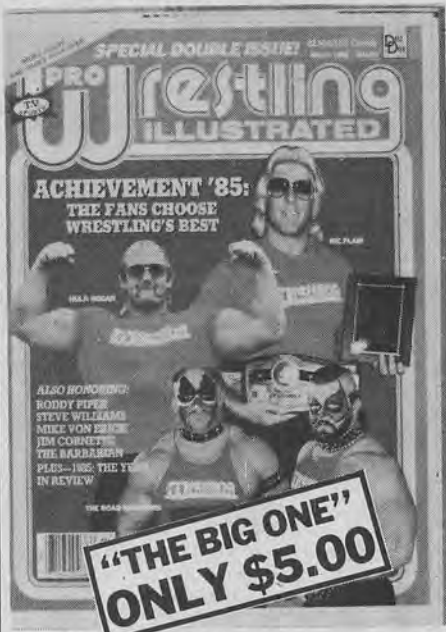
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KEVIN VON ERICH

(Continued from page 62)



Bart tries, but he can't escape from Von Erich's big splash. Kevin says he's extremely proud to have reached the heights his brother Kerry did. In 1984, Kerry won the NWA World championship from Ric Flair.

event in Texas in a long time. People identify a federation by its champion. Play word association with even a non-wrestling fan and you'll probably get the following results: WWF. *Hulk Hogan*. NWA. *Ric Flair*. AWA. *Who knows?*

Let's face it. The World Class needs a Von Erich as champion, although there hadn't been one since the World Class declared independence from the NWA. In Texas, the Von Erichs are revered, just like the Johnson family and the Ewings. They like to see one of their own on top. And although outsiders might say that they're sick of watching the Von Erichs, in Texas nothing could be further from the truth.

They still get the biggest response at live matches. Women still go ga-ga over Lance and drool over Mike, Kevin, and Kerry. When Kerry got into his accident, Texas prayed. There is no pride like Texas pride. The Lone Star State stands by itself in that department. It's no secret that when Chris Adams and Rick Rude left the area, one of the reasons was that although they were champions, the Von Erichs seemed to get all of the attention.

Kevin won the title in classic Von Erich fashion. Seemingly unhampered

by his chronic shoulder injury, he wore the champion down with a series of dropkicks and other well-timed aerial maneuvers. Then, with Black Bart all but beaten, Kevin delivered a power-slam and it was all over. In reality, Black Bart was no match for the quicker and smarter Kevin.

"Kevin had a significant edge over Black Bart," said Kerry Von Erich, who was at ringside to urge on his brother. "A lot of people think that Kevin is too light to wrestle, but that's really his advantage. I think Bart was really stunned by Kevin's incredible quickness and accuracy."

Kerry is still trying to recover from his June 4 motorcycle accident and there's been no word on when, or if, he will return. He was considered to be the Von Erichs' best chance for the World Class title, but now, even if he does come back, there's no telling how good a wrestler he'll be.

But his place has been well-taken by Kevin and don't be surprised to see wrestlers coming in from other areas to take a shot at the champion. Wrestlers love a challenge, and Kevin can provide that challenge. There are plenty of Von Erich haters out there. The action is sure to heat up around the World Class over the next few months.

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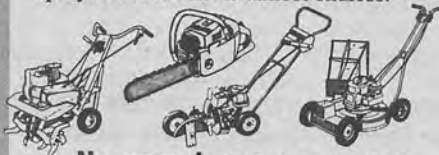
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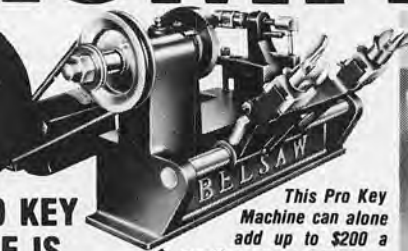
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